PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
9 June 2008—20 June 2008

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9 June 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness, Baroness Vadera, has made the following statement:

> The following statement provides information on the competitiveness Council in Brussels on 29 May 2008, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired by Andrej Vizjak, Slovenian Minister of Economy and Gregor Virant, Slovenian Minister of Public Administration.
>
> The Council held a debate on competitiveness and innovation in European industry, and adopted conclusions agreeing on the goal of making the EU a more dynamic and competitive, knowledge-based, safe and sustainable low carbon economy, in order to achieve sustainable growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. The conclusions emphasise the importance of removing barriers to innovation and reducing the fragmentation of European venture capital markets, the potential contribution of pre-commercial procurement, and the need to implement measures to fight climate change and to improve the competitiveness of the metals, forest-based and defence industries. I intervened to emphasise the importance of further work to reduce the regulatory burden on small firms, to improve access to venture capital in the EU, to achieve greater energy efficiency and achieve the transition to a low carbon economy, and to develop skills levels in the EU.
>
> Following a presentation by the Commission on its second strategic review of the better regulation initiative, the Council adopted conclusions calling for further action on impact assessment, the reduction of administrative burdens, and the simplification of EU legislation. I intervened in the debate to stress the need for a net target for burden reductions and for ambitious company law simplification proposals, including exclusions for the smallest companies.
>
> The Council took note of a progress report on the future development of an EU patent system, and held an exchange of views on progress on patent litigation and the Community patent. I intervened to note the much higher cost of patents in the EU than in Japan and the US, and to urge rapid progress to resolve outstanding concerns in order to achieve an efficient, cheap system as soon as possible, concentrating as a priority on efforts to improve the patent litigation system.
>
> Under 'other business', the Commission gave brief progress reports on the draft toy safety directive, the small business act for Europe initiative, cohesion policy strategies and programmes for 2007-13, transposition of the services directive and the draft regulation on CO_2 emissions from cars. The presidency gave a brief report on the outcome of the informal Competitiveness Council in April. Portugal made brief interventions about fees charged by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market and the effect of rising oil prices on the EU economy.

Telecoms Council

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness, Baroness Vadera, has made the following statement:

> I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which BERR has responsibility at the forthcoming Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecoms Council) in Luxembourg on 12 June 2008.
>
> The first substantiative item on the agenda is a presidency progress report on the European Commission proposals to review the regulatory framework for electronic communication networks and services (telecoms). The Slovenian presidency is expected to pose three (written) questions in the debate:
>
> whether the revised framework is able to incentivise investment in next generation access networks (NGN)—the successor to broadband;
>
> the extent to which regulatory bodies should be independent, and whether more consistency in the approach that National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) take would be of benefit; and,
>
> Ministers' views on the best way to achieve a common vision on spectrum management in the EU.
>
> In addition, we are envisaging a discussion over lunch on the Commission's proposal for a pan-EU Telecoms Authority.
>
> In line with the views of both Committees, the Government have never been convinced of the case for a new pan-EU regulator. I noted with interest the output of the House of Commons debate on 18 March 2008 and the conclusions of the House of Lords debate on 14 March 2008 entitled "The Single Market: Wallflower or Dancing Partner". You will be reassured to know that none of my opposite numbers in other member states, or indeed the views from the European Parliament, support the Commission's original proposals. Together with like-minded Ministers, I intend to use this discussion over lunch with Commissioner Reding to reiterate our views on the elements necessary for an independent advisory body to build upon existing arrangements and strengthen the application of the framework. My officials have been working closely with officials from the incoming French presidency, in developing their alternative to the Commission's agency proposals, on which the French Minister and I will looking to galvanise member state support. Essentially the French proposals address our concerns, and look to shape the advisory body as a much smaller entity comprising of the chairs of all 27 National Regulatory Authorities complemented by a small permanent secretariat appropriate only to undertake the revised remit. We shall also be clear that it must have a remit to act not only at the request of the Commission, but also on its own initiative, that it its roles and functions must be clearly defined, and that it must be politically independent and operate in a fully transparent manner.
>
> Focusing on the three questions we expect the Slovenian presidency to pose, I intend to take the opportunity in response to the first of these to make an intervention on the need for this framework to be technologically neutral, and provide NRAs with the necessary power, including new powers of functional separation, to promote efficient infrastructure investment in those parts of the network which are replicable, and to ensure access on non-discriminatory terms to those elements which are likely to be enduring economic bottlenecks. What we do not want is an outcome which enables member states to unfairly favour incumbents' deployment of fibre networks by excusing them of their obligations to ensure non-discriminatory access.
>
> On the second question, I intend to take the opportunity to emphasise the importance the UK attaches to independent regulators separated from market participants and the day to day pressure of politics. However, I will also push for a higher level of ambition, so that rather than focusing on achieving

consistency (whether that be consistently good or consistently bad), we should be focusing on developing a process that continually raises the bar in terms of regulatory performance across the EU. During this intervention I will also reconfirm our commitment to work with other member states to find a satisfactory mechanism of constraining a Commission veto on national market remedies to target the laggards, without constraining regulatory innovation and causing unnecessary additional hurdles in those member states which are already applying the framework with considerable success.

In addressing the last of their questions, I intend to emphasise that whilst it is appropriate for member states to have sufficient flexibility to support clearly defined public policy purposes, we are strongly of the view that the market is best placed to manage spectrum. I share the views, which I expect to be expressed by several Ministers, that harmonisation can bring benefits through economies of scale and interoperability. However, I will make it clear that enforced (regulatory) harmonisation runs the risk of spectrum being underused if services do not develop as expected. For this reason I believe that market-led harmonisation, achieved through a technology and service neutral approach, is more appropriate as it can adapt to changing market conditions and avoid inefficient use of spectrum.

I am aware of, and grateful for, both Committees interest in this important package. I can report that in addition to instructing my officials to work closely with their opposite numbers and the European Parliament, I have held successful bilateral meetings with the French, and in advance of this Council meeting will have meet with Commissioner Reding and my German and Finnish opposite numbers to prepare the ground. I will write to you again to report on these discussions, and as requested (in both the Commons scrutiny debate on 18 March 2008 and their previous correspondence on 12 December 2007, as well as in the Lords scrutiny clearance letter of 13 May 2008), will keep both Committees updated on the progress of these proposals.

Following the discussion on the framework review, there is the adoption of Council conclusions on a common approach to the use of the spectrum released by digital switchover. The Commission published its communication in November, and this included a proposal for a move towards a common spectrum plan in the UHF band at EU level. While it is recognised that there are benefits to harmonisation, I intend to intervene to argue that enforced harmonisation inhibits the development of the market and that consumer focused services are best allocated on a technology/service neutral basis. I will welcome the Council conclusions which through negotiation now reflect a non-mandatory approach to co-ordination between member states in the utilisation of the digital dividend.

This will be followed by the Council conclusions on preparing Europe's digital future i2010 mid-term review. These conclusions invite member states to increase their efforts in taking forward the dossiers that are covered by the strategy, thereby enabling information society and audiovisual media services to contribute to the Lisbon strategy. I will be supporting this, but there is not expected to be any substantiative discussion.

The next item is a Commission proposal for political agreement on the duration of the European Network and Information Security Agency. Currently ENISA's mandate expires in 2009 and an extension is required to ensure its continued existence. I intend to support this proposal to ensure that there is continuity in EU network information security until final decisions have been made concerning the establishment of the European Electronic Communications Market Authority. As such, the extension of the ENISA mandate will need to be time-bounded.

The final item on the agenda concerning telecommunications relates to the recently published Commission communication on "Advancing the Internet: Action Plan for the Deployment of Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) in Europe". This is essentially about how the internet community can be encouraged to adopt IP6 addresses in place of the dwindling supply of current IPv4 ones. The detail of this is currently being considered. However, I intend to intervene to say that such deployment should be an orderly, industry-led solution where the Commission and Governments are supportive, rather than the primary drivers.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bellwin Scheme

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am satisfied that financial assistance under the Bellwin scheme is justified to cover eligible costs incurred by six councils following flooding in England in January 2008.

A scheme will therefore be established under section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Grants will be paid to the authorities to cover 85 per cent. of their eligible costs incurred above a threshold.

The six local authorities are:

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council;
Newark and Sherwood District Council;
North Lincolnshire Council;
Oxford City Council;
Vale of White Horse District Council; and
West Oxfordshire District Council

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

OFWAT

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 7 February 2008 (Col 79WS) the publication of draft statutory social and environmental guidance to the Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT) for consultation.

Copies of a report summarising the outcome of the consultation will be placed in the Libraries of the House. A copy is also available on the DEFRA website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/natural environment.htm.

As set out in the Water Industry Act 1991 as amended by the Water Act 2003 I will also be laying the draft guidance before Parliament today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Reform

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): Over the next year, the Government are bringing in the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 40 years. Today I am laying new immigration rules which complete the roll-out of Tier 1 of the points-based system, introducing provisions for highly skilled migrants, entrepreneurs, investors and recent graduates from UK universities. Worldwide we will also be introducing the entrepreneur, investor and post study work categories. This meets the target I announced last year on time. Tier 1 replaces eight former immigration categories, in line with our commitment to simplifying the immigration system.

Tier 1 will let Britain recruit the skills, assets and ideas the UK needs to remain a global leader in the fields of finance, business, and technological innovation. In particular:

> Tier 1 (General) is for highly skilled migrants who wish to seek work or become self-employed in the UK. The entry criteria are rigorous: applicants without qualifications at first degree level or above and a track record of highly skilled employment will not gain entry. But migrants who successfully apply will be able to seek work without being tied to a particular employer for three years. At the end of that time they will be able to extend their stay if they can show they have been successful in a highly skilled capacity.
>
> Tier 1 (Post Study Work) provides a bridge for international graduates from their studies to work in the UK. Eligible migrants may stay on after graduation to seek work for up to two years, after which they have to switch into either a skilled or highly skilled immigration category. We believe this to be one of the most attractive staying on schemes in the world; it will boost our economy both by enabling these graduates to remain in the UK and by making studying in the UK a more attractive prospect.
>
> Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) will encourage migrants to bring their business skills and ideas to the UK. While applicants will not need to have a minimum level of qualifications, they will be required to invest £200,000 in new or existing businesses and create at least 2 new jobs for workers settled in the UK.
>
> Tier 1 (Investor) is for high net worth individuals making a substantial financial investment (£750,000) in the UK.

Our statements of intent for Tiers 2 and 5 of the points-based system were published on 6 May. The statement of intent for Tier 4 will be published by the end of the summer.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I am today announcing the Government's position on the reports of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). The UK Government approve the global summary for decision makers, the North America and European regional summary for decision makers, and the executive summary of the synthesis of the global and regional reports, and accept the chapters of the synthesis report. We would note these reports, and the background IAASTD reports, provide a valuable contribution to our understanding on agricultural knowledge, science and technology for development, and while presenting an overall consensus they also provide a diversity of views.

The IAASTD has produced a series of options for governments and other stakeholders to consider to help ensure that agricultural knowledge, science and technology fulfils its potential to the reduction of hunger and poverty. The Government will be considering these options in their support of agricultural knowledge, science and research for developing countries.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 June 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 3 June 2008. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury attended for the UK. Items on the agenda were as follows:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT

Ministers agreed to the abrogation of the excessive deficit procedures for Italy, the Czech Republic, Portugal and Slovakia. The recommendations for the abrogation were based on the Commission's Spring 2008 economic forecasts which confirmed that the deficit to GDP ratio for these member states would fall below the 3 per cent. reference value and remain below it in future years.

EMU@10

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of the recent Commission communication marking the tenth anniversary of European monetary union. The communication reflects on the success of the single currency over the past decade, including its contribution to macroeconomic stability, cross-border trade and investment, financial integration, and its role as a world currency. It also highlights future challenges, citing globalisation, climate change mitigation and financial market turbulence as particular examples.

CONVERGENCE REPORTS BY THE COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Ministers exchanged views on the progress made against the convergence criteria by those member states seeking to join the Euro, with a particular focus on Slovakia. On the basis of the report Ministers noted that Slovakia had met the criteria for entry into the euro on 1 January 2009, pending a discussion by Heads Of State and Government at the European Council on 18-19 June 2008.

PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: FOOD PRICES

As formally requested by the UK at the May ECOFIN, member states held an exchange of views on the issue of food prices in the context of recent commodity price inflation. This debate, and the Council note which resulted, will prepare the forthcoming discussion at heads level at the June European Council. The UK welcomed the opportunity to discuss this important issue at European level, and looks forward to the European Council discussion producing a strong set of conclusions outlining short-term, mid-term and long-term measures at EU and international level.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

i) Clearing and settlement

Ministers agreed a set of Council conclusions on the ongoing workstreams to improve the market infrastructure for clearing and settlement of equities, derivatives and bonds. The UK strongly supports this work.

ii) Solvency II

The Council noted and agreed to the progress report from the Commission on the state of play of the Solvency II directive on insurance and reinsurance. Further discussion of the directive will now take place under the French presidency. The UK supports work to ensure more effective supervision of pan-European insurance groups.

iii) Deposit guarantee scheme

Ministers held an orientation debate on deposit guarantee schemes, on the basis of an initial discussion at the April informal ECOFIN on the functioning of such schemes for cross-border firms. The debate gave a political steer for the official level work on guarantee schemes. The UK views this work as very important and has offered to share expertise with other member states based on our own experiences.

TAXATION

i) VAT on financial and insurance services

The Council took note of the state of play on Commission proposals for changes to the VAT treatment of financial services and insurance products on the basis of a presidency progress report. The UK welcomes the progress made under the Slovenian presidency on the modernisation on the VAT exemption for financial services.

ii) Excise duties: proposal for a directive concerning the general arrangements for excise duty

Ministers noted a progress report on the proposed directive on excise duty, which would update and simplify the arrangements for excisable goods in the EU and establish a legal base for a new computerised administration system. The French presidency will continue work on this dossier.

iii) Report of the code of Conduct Group (business taxation)

The Council took note of a report from the code of conduct group on business taxation on its work under the Slovenian presidency and agreed conclusions that underlined the importance of agreement on the group's future work programme and noted that ECOFIN would return to this issue under the French presidency. The code of conduct group is a group of high-level representatives, chaired by Mrs. Jane Kennedy, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, which works to identify and eliminate harmful tax practices. The UK is a strong supporter of the work of the group.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

National Challenge for Secondary Schools

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today launching the National Challenge—a detailed strategy to make sure that parents and pupils experience good standards in all secondary schools, with the expectation that, by 2011, every school will have at least 30 per cent. of its pupils achieving five or more higher grade GCSEs, including both English and mathematics. This takes forward a key children's plan commitment. I have placed copies of the relevant documents in the Libraries of both Houses.

Every child deserves a school where there is effective leadership, with a strong focus on the basics: excellent teaching and learning with good discipline. Schools should have a strong ethos which promotes high aspiration and a love of learning. They must develop the talents of all their pupils and be resolute in raising standards, while supporting the needs of every child. The barriers to learning, both inside and out of schools, need to be overcome by excellent co-operation between schools and wider children's services, working seamlessly together.

The National Challenge will help make this a reality for all schools. It will end a culture of failure and low attainment. It will confront complacency and provide incentives for every secondary school to improve.

The National Challenge is founded on the principle that schools themselves must lead the changes necessary to meet the 2011 goal by working effectively, and with other schools, local partners, as well as parents, carers and communities, to make sure every child is supported in a way that secures educational success.

Local authorities will play a central role in the national challenge. Working with other Children's Trust partners, they provide strategic leadership to the schools system locally and bring together all the wider services that enable children to succeed and achieve, and create the environment in which children and families can thrive. Each local authority will need to provide support and challenge to the efforts of schools and take bold steps where necessary to ensure success.

National Challenge schools will be strongly supported. The Government will now deploy £400 million of funding to secure extra support and, where needed, transformational strategies for the most vulnerable secondary schools, with solutions matched to schools' individual needs and the level of risk that they will not meet the 2011 target. National Challenge schools—that is, the 638 currently below the 30 per cent. threshold—will be able to draw additional resources, for example in English, maths or behaviour support, to meet their needs. National Challenge schools will also be among the first to benefit from our policies to make teaching a Masters level profession.

The National Challenge will draw on lessons we have learned from the success of the London challenge programme, which has already been extended to Greater Manchester and the Black Country. This has given us experience of working with large numbers of schools in challenging circumstances in some of the most deprived areas of the country. It will also be an opportunity for national leaders of education and other strong heads to play a key role in mentoring and in leading partnerships with weaker schools.

The National Challenge will involve the creation of more partnerships between schools, where a strong school may be funded to drive improvement in a weaker one, developing and sustaining a new culture of excellence. Experience shows that such partnerships —usually cemented as trusts—can deliver substantial and rapid improvements in weak schools. Some National Challenge trusts will involve closure of a weak school, linked to a plan to reopen as a new trust school. Alongside the closure plan, we envisage an improvement partnership led by a strong local school, to build capacity and share good practice. In many cases, a powerful external partner such as a local business or university will also add energy to the trust. National Challenge trusts will receive appropriate additional funding to enable the new school to make a fresh beginning.

In addition, the National Challenge will facilitate an acceleration of the academy programme in areas where it is most needed, and particularly in those schools where previous interventions and support have not worked.

The National Challenge will be supported by a panel of expert advisers, under the chairmanship of Sir Mike Tomlinson, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools. They will provide independent expertise in relation to the most significant problems faced by local authorities with National Challenge schools.

The National Challenge is a vital step towards the Government's ambitions to achieve world class standards in all our schools, to put an end to all low educational expectations and complacency, and to enable every child to achieve success and fulfil their potential.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Personnel

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): Members of the armed forces who die on operations or in training are remembered on the new armed forces memorial in Staffordshire, which was dedicated by Her Majesty the Queen last October. For some months now, the military chiefs of staff have been giving careful consideration to how the nation might give additional recognition.

The chiefs have concluded that the time is now right to recommend a new national award for the families of those personnel who die on operations, or as a result of terrorist action whilst on duty. This award will recognise their terrible loss and the sacrifice made by their loved one whilst serving their country. The chiefs' recommendations have been welcomed by MOD Ministers, endorsed by the cross-Government Committee on Honours and Awards and been approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

The recognition will be in the form of a memorial scroll and an emblem for wear. The scroll will be similar in concept to those that were issued to the families of those who died in the two world wars and in Korea in the early 1950s. The introduction of an emblem for the families of those killed is not something that we have done as a nation before, but similar recognition already exists, for example, in Canada and New Zealand. The chiefs of staff have also recommended that the award should be retrospective.

Much detailed work will now be required to consider what the criteria for the award should be, how far the award should go back and who will receive it, along with other issues such as the design and production of the scroll and emblem. A team has been established and is pressing ahead with this work. This is a sensitive and complex subject and we must take time to get the details right. It will therefore be some months before the award will be ready for issue and I expect to be able to announce more details later this year.

I pay tribute to the bravery and courage that the families of all our serving men and women show and I hope that the new award will provide a more visible form of recognition from the nation for those who pay the ultimate sacrifice in the name of their country.

HEALTH

Carers Strategy

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The 2006 community White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" signalled the review of the Prime Minister's strategy on carers as part of the new deal for carers. In June 2007 we launched an extensive consultation process.

We have consulted with over 4,000 carers, adult and young, during a comprehensive six-month consultation process.

Today we are announcing our new 10-year carers strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities". The strategy sets an ambitious vision focusing on providing greater services and support for carers over the next 10 years. Specifically, in the short term to kick-start the process of improving support for carers, we are investing an additional £150 million in providing breaks for carers, up to £38 million in helping carers combine paid employment and caring and over £6 million in support for young carers. Furthermore, we are committed, in the longer term, to reviewing the structure of the benefits available to carers in the context of wider benefit reform and the fundamental review of the care and support system. In total, we are investing £255 million in the short-term commitments included in the strategy. This investment builds on the annual carers grant provided to local authorities to support carers (this stands at £224 million in 2008-09).

This process, although led by Department of Health, has involved work across a number of Government Departments, reflecting the fact that this strategy sets the agenda not simply for health and social care but across government.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Race Relations Act 1976 (Section 19D Authorisation)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be a Somali or an Eritrean national submit to language analysis. This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2008—4 February - 4 June—which will expire on the latter date.

Language analysis carried out between February and June for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his or her case. The authorisation will remain in place for 10 months—until April 2009—at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Probation Board for Northern Ireland (Business Plan 2008-09)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today published the Probation Board for Northern Ireland business plan for 2008-09. The plan sets out the board's key objectives and performance targets for the coming year.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office (Jessica de Grazia Review)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "The director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and I are today publishing a report from Jessica de Grazia, a former senior prosecutor in the USA, of her review of the working practices of the SFO. The review was commissioned in March 2007 by the former Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, and the former director of the Serious Fraud Office, Robert Wardle.
>
> To support her review, Ms de Grazia compared the SFO with two prosecutor's offices in the USA. Her analysis and recommendations cover the internal workings of the SFO in some detail, and she has also covered a number of external factors which she sees as having an impact on the SFO's effectiveness. We are very grateful to Ms de Grazia for the extensive work she has put into preparing this detailed report.
>
> Tackling fraud effectively is a matter of the highest priority. The new director of the SFO, Richard Alderman, is taking forward a programme of significant reforms to the SFO, addressing issues of leadership, skills, structures and working practices. He is grateful to have Ms de Grazia's detailed analysis of the internal workings of the SFO as background to his change programme.
>
> Ms de Grazia's recommendations about external factors affecting the prosecution of fraud go wider than the SFO, and provide an interesting perspective for the development of policy in this area, based on US experience.
>
> Some of her recommendations can be accepted or are already in hand, for example the Crown Prosecution Service has now adopted the practice of speaking to witnesses in limited circumstances to clarify or assess the reliability of their evidence. The Government intend to extend means testing for legal aid to the Crown court, and agree that legal aid payments should be for outcomes not time spent.
>
> Not all of Ms de Grazia's recommendations can be accepted. In particular, the prosecutors do not share Ms de Grazia's conclusion that the way to address concerns about the disclosure regime is to return to the position prior to the Criminal Procedures and Investigation Act 1996. We keep the disclosure regime under active review and will work with practitioners and stakeholders to identify and implement improvements.
>
> The Government are committed to ensuring that the legal framework as a whole allows fraudsters to be brought to justice, and has a number of relevant reforms in hand as part of the national fraud programme, implementing the recommendations of 2006's fraud review. For example, we are consulting on proposals for a framework for plea negotiation in fraud cases. A working group is examining Crown court powers to see if they are sufficient in relation to fraud; and a separate working group is examining whether there should be a specialist financial court.
>
> These initiatives are part of a wider programme, financed by an additional £29 million from the comprehensive spending review 2007, including the establishment of a National fraud strategic authority; a national fraud reporting centre; and a lead force for fraud.
>
> Under Richard Alderman's leadership, the Solicitor-General and I expect the SFO to play a full part in tackling fraud effectively as part of this wider programme.
>
> Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

WORK AND PENSIONS

Households Below Average Income

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am publishing today "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07".

This is the 19th edition of the "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series. This report presents information on living standards in the United Kingdom as determined by disposable income in 2006-07, and changes in income patterns over time.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 11 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regional Development Agencies (Reappointments)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that I have decided to reappoint 12 existing RDA board members who between them serve six of our regional development agencies, listed below:

Regional Development Agency	*Board Member Reappointees*
Advantage West Midlands	John Crabtree OBE, Cllr Ken Taylor, Dr David Brown
East Midlands Development Agency	Stan Crawford OBE, Parvin Ali OBE
ONENorthEast	Kate Welch, Clllr John Shipley, Ian Brown
NorthWest Regional Development Agency	Vanda Murray (new term as deputy chair)
The South West of England Regional Development Agency	Kelvyn Derrick (continuing in the position of deputy chair)
Yorkshire Forward	Barry Dodd OBE, Cllr Kath Pinnock

The regional development agencies play a vital role in spreading economic prosperity and opportunity to everyone. All the reappointees have brought a wealth of experience to their RDA adding a vast amount of value.

I have agreed to 11 of the reappointments starting on the 14 December for a period of three years, expiring in December 2011, with the exception of Ian Brown who I have agreed will be serving another two years until December 2010. I have also agreed to Kelvyn Derrick and Vanda Murray serving as Deputy Chairs.

I have placed further details of these reappointments, including biographies, in the Libraries of the House. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Migration Impacts Plan

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am today publishing a plan that sets out the Government's approach to managing the impacts of migration.

We believe that migration to the United Kingdom brings substantial benefits to our economy and to society as a whole. Our response to the House of Lords' Economic Affairs Select Committee's inquiry into migration, published alongside this document, restates our case for these benefits. Together these documents set out our objective; to maximise the benefits of migration while minimising any transitional pressures experienced by communities and local service providers.

We are carrying out the biggest shake-up of the UK's border security and immigration system for 45 years and introducing a new points-based system to attract those most able to make a positive contribution to the UK.

We will continue to provide refuge for those fleeing persecution, as we have done for centuries. Once people are here, we will ensure that they are able to integrate and make a positive contribution to their community. We are also taking steps to ensure that they learn English and do not access benefits or services unfairly.

Migration brings significant benefits nationally, but the precise difference that migration makes to local places and people will vary from town to town, neighbourhood to neighbourhood, and sometimes even street to street. Some local areas are more affected by change than others and some communities feel the effects of change more than others. Public concern about immigration remains, particularly about pressures on public services and impacts on the labour market.

In some places it is the rate and scale of change which have an impact on local communities and services: Other places experiencing significant migration for the first time may not have the institutions and programmes in place to help them manage that change. And for some areas, there may be further challenges to face if net migration reduces.

We want to enable all places to share in the positive benefits of migration. But this will take practical action. Local authorities, working closely with their communities and public, private and third sector partners, are best placed to manage change. Where it is necessary, the Government are committed to providing support in three ways.

First, it is our responsibility to understand the change that is taking place in our communities. We are committed to getting better at planning for the future, anticipating shifts in migration patterns and helping local authorities prepare for them. This work includes a £12 million programme led by the Office for National Statistics to improve population and migration data.

Secondly, we shall help public services respond in those places most affected by demographic changes, including the arrival of new migrants. We have already made specific funding available—such as additional resources for schools experiencing rapid growth in pupil numbers. We are committed to developing a new transitional impacts of migration fund to help manage the local impacts of migration. Money for the fund will be raised through increases to certain fees for immigration applications.

Thirdly, we will support people and communities to be confident in the face of change. We have already provided significant funding for community cohesion by helping new migrants understand local customs and make a positive contribution to local life, and by breaking down the misconceptions that can sometimes cause anxiety or tension with the settled community. We are committed to providing further support to local authorities and their partners and to sharing the successful approaches that are already making a difference in many places—from local citizen days to migrant information packs.

There are many commitments made in this document to support what we are offering now, and work is already underway for the rest of this year.

Early in 2009, we intend to provide an update on the changes made and the action taken as a result of this programme of work.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/migrationimpact.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) the following performance targets for 2008-09:

Quality of Service Delivery

Deliver 90 per cent. of contracted research milestones.

Deliver 85 per cent. of research final reports on time.

Deliver 85 per cent. of contracted surveillance deliverables to time.

Maintain appropriate third party quality accreditations.

Achieve a score of 85 per cent. on a three-year rolling average in the VLA customer satisfaction survey.

Value for Public Money

Achieve full cost recovery.

Capacity & Capability

Develop an implementation plan for the recommendations of the VLA science audit and implement the first year of the plan.

To conduct one table top notifiable disease simulation exercise to test current laboratory response capability, identify gaps and implement action plan.

Further details are given in the VLA Business Plan for 2008-09 copies of which will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) the following Performance Targets for 2008-09:

(i) To authorise veterinary medicines against legislative requirements according to published standards and monitor reports of suspected adverse reactions to identify emerging trends and take appropriate action.

(ii) To ensure that UK policy objectives are reflected in EC legislation and guidance and that UK legislation and guidance enables veterinary medicines to be used responsibly, effectively and safely.

(iii) To ensure the regulatory system is effective and contributes to protecting public health by taking risk-based action on the findings from surveillance of residues in food-producing animals.

(iv) To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to achieve targets i), ii) and iii) and provide value for money, and that VMD achieves full cost recovery.

Further details are given in the VMD Business Plan for 2008-09, copies of which will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma (UK Aid)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The written parliamentary statement issued on 3 June on Burma Cyclone Nargis stated that "A total of 20 DFID-funded aid flights have now arrived in Rangoon... All these items have been consigned to the UN, NGOs and the Red Cross." This statement was reflected in replies I gave to Mr. Andrew Mitchell MP and Mr. Kevan Jones MP on 6 June.

I learned on the evening of 10 June that at the request of Save the Children Fund (SCF) the paperwork for the clearance of its relief goods was handled by a clearing agent. No payment was received by this clearing agent for its service to SCF, and the full extent of the involvement of the clearing agent was to clear the documents for the shipment with the Burmese customs. While the airway bills for these supplies list the clearing agent as the consignee for the goods, the relief goods themselves were transferred directly from the aircraft to SCF's warehouse for onward distribution by SCF or other NGOs.

The agent the SCF used to clear their goods is a Government business consortium under the name of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (Ngapudaw-Haing Gyi) which includes a company called Shwe Thanlwin Limited. This company and its chairman, U Kyaw Win, are listed in the Annex to the EU common position as "persons who benefit from government economic policies" and are subject to sanctions.[1]

I have written today to the chief executive of SCF expressing grave concern at SCF's choice of clearing agent and informing them that we will not provide any further relief supplies to them through this clearing agent.

DFID staff have also re-checked the arrangements for other UK supplies delivered to the World Food Programme, Merlin, Medecins Sans Frontieres and the International Federation of the Red Cross. These organisations are named as the consignee on the Airway Bills and have received all the goods intended for them.

We continue to monitor the delivery of UK assistance to our UN, NGO and Red Cross partners for the victims of the cyclone.

JUSTICE

Public Law Family Fees Consultation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Ministry of Justice has published the response to the consultation paper "Public Law Family Increases" (CP 32/07).

The consultation paper invited comments concerning specific proposals to increase court fees for public law Children Act and adoption proceedings.

Views were sought on how fees could be structured in relation to care proceedings. The options discussed were:

a single full fee payable at issue;

variable application fee based on quality of preparation - this option reflecting a recommendation of the Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales, published in May 2006; and three fees payable at successive stages of a case (based on the new 'public law outline' procedure introduced in April 2008).

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 8MC.]*

Copies of the response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained on the Department's website at www.justice.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I will attend the second Transport Council of the Slovenian presidency which takes place in Luxembourg on 13 June.

In road transport, there were progress reports to the April Council on three current legislative proposals: the recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; the regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator; and the recast regulation on common rules for access to the market for coach and bus services. The Council will aim to reach a political agreement on these proposals. These include new provisions for setting up national registers so that information about road haulage and coach companies operating within the EU can be exchanged between member states' authorities for enforcement purposes. The proposals also seek to clarify and simplify the rules for hauliers and coaches working outside of their home territory, including the rules on cabotage. The Government still have a reservations on some of these proposals and will be putting our case to the other members of the Transport Council.

The Council will aim to reach a general approach on a recast directive on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers. The proposal is essentially a consolidation—as well as providing for a very minor update—of existing directives covering the periodic technical inspection of vehicles to verify that they are roadworthy. UK domestic legislation already makes equivalent provision to the two changes in the text.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions following the Commission communication on multi-annual contracts for rail infrastructure quality.

The aim of the communication is to promote the adoption through the Community of multi-annual funding agreements for rail infrastructure in order to provide a more stable and efficient financial environment for the delivery of improvements in rail infrastructure quality. We support the adoption of the Council conclusions.

There will be a progress report and the Council will aim to reach a general approach on a directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles. The UK Government supports the policy objectives behind the proposal, as well as the principle of using public procurement to help stimulate the market for cleaner and energy-efficient vehicles. We consider that the revised text submitted to Council is a significant improvement on the Commission's original and goes in the right direction of encouraging cost-effective green procurement without imposing an unacceptable burden on public authorities. However, we regret the lack of a formal impact assessment, and will want, with the Commission, to keep the costs and benefits of the proposed measures under review, as discussions progress.

The Council will be asked to adopt a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards an EU/Western Balkans transport treaty. The UK welcomes this opportunity to work towards improvement of the infrastructure of the Western Balkans and better transport links.

In aviation, the Council will be asked to adopt decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations on comprehensive air transport agreements with Australia and New Zealand. The UK can support the opening of negotiations with these countries and is content with the proposed negotiating mandate.

Tramway and Heritage Rail Safety Verification

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): In 2006, the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 (generally known within the rail industry as "ROGS") (S.I. 2006/599) were introduced as the new safety regulatory framework applicable to all rail-based transport systems. ROGS include new arrangements for ensuring the safety of new or significantly altered rolling stock and infrastructure via a system of independent safety verification that is managed by rail operators.

When ROGS were introduced, the application of the new safety verification arrangements to tramways and heritage rail was postponed until 1 October 2008, to allow further time for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) to work with the tramway and heritage rail sectors to resolve their remaining concerns surrounding the safety verification process.

Chris Bolt, the chairman of ORR, wrote to me on 15 April 2008 to update me with progress on the work undertaken by ORR to address the concerns of the tramway and heritage railway sectors and recommending that safety verification should be applied to those sectors from October 2008, as originally provided for in ROGS. A copy of the letter is available in the Libraries of the House. Following this, I received a number of representations from both sectors advising that they still have outstanding concerns and requesting that the application of safety verification be postponed for a further period.

ORR acknowledges that the tramway and heritage rail sectors still have some remaining concerns. However, ORR is confident that application of safety verification to these sectors will secure safety in a proportionate and pragmatic way, and have given a commitment to provide both sectors with enhanced support when safety verification comes into effect for them. Safety verification has already been successfully applied to the mainline railway network and the London underground and Docklands light railway systems since October 2006.

Having considered the advice and recommendation from ORR and the written and verbal representations from the tramway and heritage rail sectors, I am satisfied that with the enhanced support to be provided by ORR, the application of safety verification to these sectors will ensure adequate levels of safety are achieved in a pragmatic and proportionate way and am therefore content for ROGS safety verification to automatically come into force for the tramway and heritage rail sectors from 1 October 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 June 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 14 May 2008. I attended for the UK. Items on the agenda were as follows:

Quality of Public Finances: Efficiency of Public Expenditure on Social Transfers and Education

Member states adopted Council conclusions on the quality of public finances. The conclusions followed a discussion at the Informal ECOFIN in Brdo, Slovenia in April. This builds on conclusions on the quality of public finances agreed under the German and Portuguese presidencies in 2007. ECOFIN will return to this work in early 2009.

Western Balkans Investment Framework

Member states adopted Council conclusions on the next steps on the Western Balkans investment framework. The UK supports work on the investment framework, which will bring together the donor funding streams for the Western Balkans, and is a priority for the Slovenian presidency. The Commission and EIB committed at ECOFIN to continue to support the framework.

Financial services

i) Financial Stability Arrangements: Supervision, including an Update of the Roadmaps

Ministers agreed a unified set of Council conclusions on arrangements on financial stability and supervision, building on the EFC draft Council conclusions on supervision and an update of the roadmaps on "Review of the Lamfalussy Process", "Strengthening EU Arrangements for Financial Stability", and "On Actions Taken in Response to the Financial Turmoil". The UK supports this work, which should help ensure that actions taken by the EU complement those taking place at international level. The UK also welcomes the inclusion in the conclusions of the UK proposals for supervisory colleges, intended to improve cross-border supervisory co-operation.

ii) Communication on Financial Education

The Council agreed to conclusions on financial education, which suggested some initiatives and practical assistance for helping member states to improve the levels of financial education within their countries. The UK recognises the potential value of this work, on which the UK has a strong track record at domestic level.

iii) White Paper on Mortgage Credits

Member states agreed to Council conclusions on a possible single market for mortgages. The Commission will now continue its consultation on mortgages. The UK supports voluntary initiatives that may improve EU market efficiency rather than harmonising consumer protection rules.

Preliminary Draft General Budget 2009

The Commission presented the preliminary draft general budget (PDB) for 2009 to the Council. This sets payment appropriations at 116.7 billion euros, or 0.90 percent. of EU/GNI. Negotiations on the PDB will now be taken forward at the July Budget ECOFIN Council.

Dialogues with Third Countries: Economic and Financial Issues

The Council received an oral update from the Commission on the state of play of the dialogues with third countries, and discussed the economic and financial issues of the EU-US summit preparation and the ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting. Ministers also heard a report on the outcomes of the 13 May Transatlantic Council.

Taxation

i) Indirect Taxation: Fight against Tax Fraud

The Commission gave an oral debrief to the Council on the state of play of the consideration of measures to combat tax fraud. This followed the request by the December 2007 ECOFIN and discussion at the March ECOFIN. Member states were unable to agree Council conclusions on VAT fraud, and will return to the subject at future meetings of ECOFIN. The Commission also committed to bring forward in the autumn new proposals on conventional measures to combat fraud. The UK remains strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against missing trader intra-community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

ii) Savings Taxation

The Commission provided an informal oral report on the functioning of the savings tax directive, in view of recent developments involving Liechtenstein investment vehicles and following the request of the March ECOFIN Council. In recognition of the importance of ongoing work to combat tax evasion, Ministers and the Commission agreed an accelerated timetable for the production of the final report, which the Commission will produce and will then be followed up by specific proposals on extending the directive. The UK strongly supports the Commission's continued dialogue with third countries with a view to bringing them into the savings tax directive.

iii) Good Governance in the Tax Area

Member States agreed conclusions containing a specific provision on good governance in the tax area. This will now be added to relevant agreements to be concluded by the Community and its Member States with third countries.

Strategy for the Evolution of the Customs Union

The Council adopted the conclusions on the Strategy for the evolution of the Customs Union on the 40th anniversary of the Union's creation. The UK supported the conclusions, which reiterated the main points of the Commission communication endorsing the role of customs with regard to the trade, financial and security interests of the Customs Union and supporting the need for common strategic objectives.

'Any Other Business': Discussion of Food Prices

In advance of the June ECOFIN, the UK requested that the presidency add to the agenda a discussion of the rising cost of food and other commodities in recognition of the severe effect on consumers in the EU and in the developing world.

Global Economy

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Treasury is today publishing "Global Commodities: a long-term vision for stable, secure and sustainable global markets". Copies are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 16 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the European Council on 19-20 June

We expect the June European Council to focus on the policy implications of high global food and commodity prices, including oil. We need a co-ordinated international response to the challenges posed, and to ensure that we do all in our power to maintain open markets, fair trade and sustainable economic growth. We will push for all partners to reaffirm their development commitments and give fresh impetus to the achievement of the millennium development goals. We expect some discussion of Lisbon treaty implementation, though we continue to stress that no decisions can be made prior to ratification of the treaty. We also expect discussions on freedom, security and justice, and will be pushing for Heads' consideration of EU input into external relations priorities such as Western Balkans, Burma and Zimbabwe.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Western Balkans

Kosovo, Serbia, and Macedonia will probably be the focus of discussion. On Kosovo, Ministers will discuss the adoption of the new constitution on 15 June and progress made in deploying the EU police and rule of law mission, EULEX. The Government continue to support the reconfiguration of international presences in Kosovo, which should continue and intensify following the adoption of the new constitution. On Serbia, Ministers are likely to discuss the latest developments in ongoing coalition negotiations. The Government continue to hope a new Serbian Government will make further progress towards the EU. On Macedonia, Ministers are likely to discuss the recent elections and the reruns that will have taken place on 15 June. The Government are strongly concerned over incidents of electoral malpractice and violence and looks to the Macedonian Government to take the necessary action to prosecute those involved. It also hopes the new Macedonian Government will continue to press ahead with reforms needed to progress towards the EU.

In addition to discussion in these areas, Ministers will also sign Bosnia-Herzegovina's stabilisation and association agreement. The Government welcome this progress and look forward to Bosnia and Herzegovina building on the agreement to advance reforms.

MIDDLE EAST

Ministerial discussion is expected to focus on the situation on the ground in Gaza, the West Bank and southern Israel, highlighting the need for progress on the political process. Discussion may also focus on the EU's relationship with Israel ahead of the EU-Israel Association Council which will be held the same day. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is expected to debrief partners on his 8-9 June visit to Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories.

On Lebanon, the Government welcome the Doha agreement that brought an end to last month's crisis in Lebanon. President Sleiman's election provides and opportunity to rebuild political and economically in the interests of all communities in Lebanon. Agreement on a Government of national unity is a crucial next step.

The Government are committed to supporting the process initiated at Annapolis, which has put the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security.

GREAT LAKES

Conclusions on the Great Lakes region are expected to acknowledge the progress made towards peace in the region in recent months. The conclusions will emphasise member states' duty to act to prevent support from reaching the Hutu FDLR militia. The Government recognise the role played by the FDLR in destabilising the region and firmly support such action by EU partners. The GAERC will also focus on the continued suffering caused by abuses of human rights in DRC and call for reform of the security sector in that country. Respect for the rule of law and an end to impunity for those guilty of the worst abuses of the civilian population are crucial. Embedding them is part of a wider effort to improve governance and security as DRC emerges from conflict.

SUDAN

We expect detailed conclusions on Sudan, expressing concern over the recent fighting in Abyei, urging respect of the North-South comprehensive peace agreement. We also support conclusions that condemn the Justice and Equality Movement's attack on Omdurman on 10 May. We supported discussion of further measures against any party impeding the Darfur peace process, blocking UNAMID aid or obstructing humanitarian access.

ZIMBABWE

The Government expect the Council to discuss the current situation in Zimbabwe with particular focus on conditions on the ground in advance of the second round of elections and the continued escalation of state-sponsored violence.

IRAN

We expect detailed discussion of Iran at this GAERC, following the visit of Javier Solana and E3 political directors to Tehran. Solana will brief on the trip and his delivery of the refreshed E3+3 engagement offer. Following the commitment at the December European Council to consider further EU action in light of a new UN Security Council resolution, the Government fully support the strengthening of EU sanctions and will continue to press partners to take a firm stand on this issue. We will be pressing for a robust EU implementation of UN Security Council resolutions in July in the form of a new common position.

CHINA

The Government expect discussion of China to focus on the upcoming Olympics and attendance by EU Heads of Government/State. Following links made between the March violence in Tibet and calls to boycott the Olympics, the European Parliament has called for a common position on member state attendance, a call which the Government do not support. The Government will be stating that it is for individual member states to decide on Olympics attendance and that our position is clear; my right hon. Friend the Olympics Minister will attend the opening ceremony and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will attend the closing ceremony. The Government are opposed to boycotts of any part of the Olympics, whether at national or EU level.

WTO/DDA

Although discussion of this topic is not yet a certainty, it is likely to focus on the process of the Doha negotiations over the coming weeks. The Government expect partners to express a range of views both on the current state of the negotiations and on the content of the revised texts (issued on 19 May). The Government strongly support the negotiating process led by WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, and our objective at the GAERC will be to ensure continued member state support for the European Commission, in order that it can negotiate the best possible DDA deal in 2008.

BURMA

The Council will discuss the current humanitarian and political situation in Burma. We will highlight the continuing severity of the humanitarian crisis, the need for continued pressure on the regime to live up to its commitments on access and the need for the EU and other donors to provide political and practical support to the UN, ASEAN and NGOs on the ground. We will also seek to draw the Council's attention to the continued lack of political progress, the regime's unacceptable decision to press ahead with its bogus referendum and to extend the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi by a further year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers (11 March - 10 June 2008)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that each individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, five CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 March 2008 to 10 June 2008, six non-derogating control orders were made and served, one control order was renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act and two control orders were revoked. One further non-derogating control order was made but has not yet been served.

In total, 15 control orders are currently in force, three of which are in respect of British citizens. Two individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating.

During this reporting period, 70 modifications of control order obligations were made. 31 requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in sections 10(1) and 10(3) of the 2005 Act respectively against decisions by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent, and against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to modify any such obligation. Eleven appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons relating to modifications to orders or the renewal of orders in this reporting period. One application for judicial review and interim relief was also submitted to the High Court.

Four judgments have been handed down by the High Court in control order cases during this reporting period. Three of these judgments have related to the substantive reviews of control orders under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. A judgment in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AE* was handed down on 20 March 2008; the court upheld the necessity of the control order on national security grounds and ruled that the control order hearing complied with Article 6 of the ECHR. In the same judgment, the court dismissed an appeal by *AE* against the increase in the length of his curfew, but upheld an appeal relating to the restrictions on visitors to *AE*'s residence. On 9 April 2008 a judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AF*. The court found that further disclosure of closed material by the Secretary of State would be necessary in order for the hearing to comply with Article 6 of the ECHR. The control order remains in force while an appeal by the Secretary of State is considered by the Court of Appeal.

The judgment in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AH* was handed down on 9 May 2008; the court upheld the necessity of the control order on national security grounds and ruled that the control order was compliant with Article 5 and Article 3; the court also ruled that the hearing complied with Article 6 of the ECHR. In addition, an oral judgment was handed down in the case of *GG* on 2 May 2008 in which an application for interim relief was refused by the High Court.

The Secretary of State has lodged three appeals with the Court of Appeal in this reporting period. Appeals were lodged on Article 6 grounds against the High Court judgments in the cases of *AN* and *AM* which were handed down in the previous reporting period. An appeal was also lodged against the judgment in the case of *AF* handed down on 9 April 2008. Three appeals have been lodged by, or on behalf of, controlled persons with the Court of Appeal. *AE* is challenging the judgment handed down on 20 March 2008 on Article 5 and Article 6 grounds. Special advocates in the case of *AF* have lodged an appeal against the closed judgment handed down on 9 April 2008. *AH* has applied for permission to appeal the judgment handed down on 9 May 2008.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

"Work Skills"

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and I are publishing a Command Paper, "Work Skills", setting out the progress made since we jointly published the January 2008 Command Paper: "Ready to Work, Skilled for Work: Unlocking Britain's Talent". Copies of which are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The paper firstly sets out how we are making the skills system more responsive to the needs of both individuals and employers, and how we are extending the principle of rights and responsibilities to those with skills needs which are preventing them from finding work.

In today's global economy Britain must compete through higher levels of skills. We must take advantage of new opportunities, new jobs and new industries and make sure that all the people and places across the country are able to benefit.

We are determined to unlock the talent and potential of all our people. We therefore need to give people the skills that will be required in both today's and tomorrow's labour market.

To achieve this, we are extending entitlements to training for young adults in work and also looking at how everybody can have their own personal skills account so that they can get the training that they need and the jobs that they want.

The right skills are crucial to getting people who are out of work into a decent job or helping them start their own business. And they are also crucial to getting a better job too. We will now make sure that when people sign on for benefits, they sign up for skills as well. Increasingly, addressing skills needs where they are preventing someone from returning to work will be an important part of receiving out-of-work benefit.

The paper also shows how we are radically improving how our welfare and skills services are delivered. This will ensure our services work more closely together, and that they are driven by those who know best how to shape support to meet local needs.

With this package of proposals we will develop the talents and skills of our people and build stronger foundations for the future success of Britain and her people.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

State Opening of Parliament

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Her Majesty the Queen will open the new Session of this Parliament on Wednesday 3 December.

TRANSPORT

Parking Contravention Regulations

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Secretary of State for Transport has today laid a statutory instrument which amends the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007. This action arises out of an anomaly created by the Traffic Management Act 2004 affecting the ability of non-Metropolitan district councils to employ civil enforcement officers to enforce in off-street car parks.

The SI will enable parking attendants appointed by a local authority under Section 63A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act to take enforcement action in limited circumstances—mainly off-street car parks—in districts outside London where the councils have the power to enforce parking contraventions.

Dartford - Thurrock River Crossing

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): In December 2006 we consulted on proposed changes to charges for use of the Dartford crossing to address continuing congestion pressures. The proposals were to tailor charges better to the conditions at the crossing, including raising cash charges to £1.50 for cars in the daytime and removing charges altogether at night when traffic flows more freely.

In response to that consultation exercise there were calls to introduce a discount scheme for local residents. The Government announced that they would develop a discount scheme for consultation, whilst going ahead with the proposed increases.

We launched a consultation on the local discount scheme on 16 February 2008, and it closed on 16 May 2008. 67 responses were received.

The Government are today publishing a summary of responses and our conclusions following the consultation exercise. I am placing copies in the Library of the House. The Government have taken careful note of the responses received and have concluded that the scheme should be implemented as proposed, subject to removing to the requirement for an initial sum to be credited to accounts. The key proposals relating to eligibility, the annual administration fee, entitlement to 50 free journeys, and journeys charged at 20p thereafter, are confirmed.

The Government expect to implement the scheme in the autumn, along with the other changes on which we consulted in 2006-07. This included raising cash charges for cars from £1 to £1.50. The Government wish to highlight the fact that car drivers who opt to pay via a Dart-TAG and account will still be able to cross for £1, regardless of where they live.

We are aiming to introduce the changes in the autumn and we will confirm the precise date when the order is laid.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Agency Targets and Business Plans

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): On 27 March 2008, I issued a Written Statement (Col 21 WS) announcing the annual performance targets in 2008-09 for the executive agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions.

One of the targets for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service—"Clear new applications and changes of circumstances to pension credit within an average of 15 working days"—was incorrect.

The correct target should have read "Clear new applications to pension credit within an average of 15 working days".

A further target for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service—"Achieve 82 per cent. of customers satisfied with the service they receive"—requires clarification.

An explanatory footnote is required to explain that the 2008-09 customer satisfaction survey will focus on customers of the former Disability and Carers Service.

The target of 82 per cent. will relate to the former agency and not all the customers of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

For completeness the full set of targets is set out below:

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance Standards for Pension Customers
To deliver an annualised value of new successful pension credit applications of £767 million and to secure at least 250,000 successful new pension credit applications.
Achieve an accuracy rate of 92 per cent. on new claims and changes of circumstances to pension credit.
Achieve an accuracy rate of 98 per cent. on new claims and changes of circumstances to state pension.
Clear new applications to pension credit within an average of 15 working days.
Clear at least 95 per cent. of new claims to state pension within 60 days.

Performance Standards for Disabled People and Carers
The number of disability living allowance/attendance allowance cases referred to the tribunal service to be no more than 4.5 per cent.
Achieve 82 per cent. of customers satisfied with the service they receive.[1] [2]
Clear new claims for disability living allowance within 38 days.
Clear new claims for Attendance Allowance within 16 days.
Clear new claims for carer's allowance within 13.5 days.
Reduce the costs of processing benefits to £34.35.
Achieve an accuracy rate of 94 per cent. on decisions on claims for disability living allowance.
Achieve an accuracy rate of 94 per cent. on decisions on claims for attendance allowance.
Achieve a financial accuracy rate of 98 per cent. for carer's allowance.

[1] The 2008-09 customer satisfaction survey will focus on customers of the former Disability and Carers Service. The target of 82 per cent. will relate to the former agency and not all the customers of the Penston, Disability and Carers Service.

[2] The Disability and Carers Service had adopted the same methodology for establishing a base for customer satisfaction since 2004, whilst continuing to review the structure of the MORI poll. 2007 provided the opportunity to expand the scope of the annual survey to better represent the cases where benefit is disallowed. From 2004-05 to 2007-08 the results of the survey are comparable. For 2007-08 an additional figure for the revised baseline will also be provided that will be used for target and comparison purposes for 2008-09.

Joint Performance Standards for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service
To have less than 1 per cent. of calls receiving an engaged tone.
To have at least 93 per cent. of calls answered by an advisor.
We aim to reduce staff sickness absence to less than 8.2 average working days lost.
We will undertake, throughout the year, specified checks and other actions designed to prevent and detect fraud and correcting fraud and error in a minimum of 50,600 cases as a result.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 9 June 2008 in Luxembourg. The UK was represented by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs. Health and Consumer Affairs issues were taken on 10 June.

Political agreement was achieved on the working time and agency workers directives. A good outcome was achieved for the UK on both these important dossiers. On working time we secured the continued right for individuals to opt out of the 48-hour week, with no suggestion of end date or phasing out—for which many others have pressed; a work-life balance provision that is in keeping with current UK policy on the right to request flexible working; a secure solution to the problems raised by the SiMAP and Jaegar judgments meaning that inactive on-call time does not have to count as working time; satisfactory safeguards on use of the opt-out, with necessary flexibility for short-term contracts; and a maximum cap of 60-65 hours, depending on the circumstances.

The agreed text on agency workers will enable us to implement the recent CBI-TUC agreement in full, setting a 12-week qualifying period for equal treatment and addressing a number of subsidiary issues as set out in that agreement.

The Council adopted conclusions on enhanced administrative co-operation on the posting of workers for the provisions of services.

Political agreement was reached on a Council decision on the 2008-10 employment guidelines. The presidency and Commission emphasised the primary importance of their implementation and the Chairman of the Employment Committee presented an opinion from the Committee on youth unemployment, which he hoped would be helpful to the Council as the Lisbon deadlines approach.

A partial general approach was agreed by the Council on a chapter covering financial provisions of the implementing regulation for social security co-ordination regulation 883/04, and additionally, the Council also agreed a general approach on some outstanding annexes for regulation 883/04.

Council conclusions were adopted on skills for young people. The UK stated our commitment to increasing skills for all, including young people and disadvantaged groups, by 2020. This was essential in the face of globalisation and there is a useful role for collaboration at European level on analysis and policy responses. The European skills review would also be invaluable in this respect.

The Council also adopted three sets of conclusions as part of the review of implementation of the Beijing platform for action on gender equality. The three areas covered were the elimination of gender stereotypes; women in political decision making; and indicators on the girl child.

Under 'any other business', the presidency reported that progress has been made on the worker mobility directive on supplementary pensions, but there were still some outstanding issues to be resolved. They also gave a report on events that had been organised by Slovenia during their time as presidency.

The chair of the Social Protection Committee gave an update on social services of general interest. The Committee will report to the Council again in December.

Several newer member states tabled a declaration on the draft decision establishing a year against poverty and exclusion in 2010. Whilst they were content for agreement to be reached at first reading with the European

Parliament, they pressed for a Community financial contribution for projects of greater than 50 per cent. to be considered in future programmes; however, the Commission defended the current 50 per cent. approach.

Reports were also received from the Commission on the activities of the expert group on demographic issues and on policies and instruments to improve inclusion of Roma across the Union.

France outlined its priorities on employment and social policy for their forthcoming presidency starting in July. The emphasis would be on legislation, including proposals expected before the end of the year on a revision of the 1994 European Works Councils Directive; a new anti-discrimination directive; and a package of measures on work-life balance. France also expects to deal with the European Parliament opinions on the agency workers and working time directive. Their main non-legislative priority would be to debate the EU's renewed social agenda, starting at the July informal meeting of Ministers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 13 June 2008

JUSTICE

"The Debt Claim Process"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am publishing a response to the consultation paper "The Debt Claim Process: helping people in debt to engage with the problem".

This was a formal consultation exercise undertaken by Her Majesty's Courts Service to report the findings of a pre-action protocol pilot and to seek views on other proposals for increasing debtor engagement and streamlining court processes.

The paper discussed the following options:

Do nothing—simply retain the current requirements.

Introduction and operation of the PAN—this would require all creditors to issue a pre-action notice generated by the court. Where there was no response to this the creditor would be free to start proceedings.

Strengthening of the current civil procedure rules requirements—this option discussed whether the existing requirements should be extended to include: provision of information about negotiating with the creditor; how payment could be made; sources of free independent advice and assistance; and time to obtain advice.

Introduction of a debtor protocol—introducing a requirement that debtors must respond to claims or face possible cost sanctions.

The introduction of a claims payments order—this would allow creditors to move directly to the 'enforceable order' stage when a debtor failed to respond after mandatory pre-action steps had been followed. This measure was designed to target the 'won't pay' group more directly.

The response rate to the consultation was low—around 8 per cent.—possibly due to the number of times these topics had previously been aired. However, it was clear that there was little support from any of the sectors for the introduction of the PAN, a debtor protocol, or the CPO. There was, however, a general support for strengthening the existing requirements covering pre-action behaviour in the CPR. This will now be considered by the Civil Justice Council (CJC).

Copies of the response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2207.htm.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today laid before Parliament the Mental Capacity Act 2005 deprivation of liberty safeguards code of practice, along with the accompanying explanatory memorandum.

The deprivation of liberty safeguards were inserted into the Mental Capacity Act 2005 by the Mental Health Act 2007. They protect against the arbitrary detention of people who lack the capacity to consent to the arrangements made for their care or treatment and who need to be deprived of their liberty, in their own best interests and for their own safety, in either hospitals or care homes. They will rectify the breach of Article 5 of the ECHR identified by the ECHR in HL v UK 2004—the 'Bournewood' case.

Section 42 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 requires the Lord Chancellor to issue a code of practice to provide information and guidance on how the safeguards will work in practice. A draft version of the code was published for full public consultation in 2007. One hundred and ten individuals and organisations responded and many of the suggestions and comments received have been incorporated into the final version.

The Act requires a range of people to 'have regard' to the code, for example anyone acting in a professional or paid role in relation to someone who lacks capacity, but it particularly focuses on those who have a duty of care to a person who lacks the capacity to consent to the care or treatment that is being provided, where that care or treatment may include the need to deprive the person of their liberty.

The code is intended to provide valuable information and guidance to all those covered by the Act and has been written to meet the needs of this wide and varied audience.

Prison Drug Treatment Funding

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 17 March, by way of a written ministerial statement (*Official Report*, Col. 49WS), together with my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo) and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis), I announced: additional Department of Health funding for prison clinical drug treatment; a national prison drug treatment review group, to be chaired by Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel; and publication of the executive summary of the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report, "A Review of Prison Based Drug Treatment Funding, December 2007".

Following considerable interest in the report, I am today with my right hon. Friend the Minister of State and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State announcing publication in full of the PwC report. The report provides a more detailed analysis of the PwC conclusions. Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel will now consider the PwC recommendations, agree a single set of priorities and compile national guidance around the streamlining of the commissioning, delivery funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders.

Copies of the PwC report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Chevaline

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have appointed Professor Matthew Jones of the university of Nottingham to write the official history of Chevaline.

TRANSPORT

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave on 19 May to a parliamentary question, [*Official Report*, Column 33W], about numbers of MCA staff taking industrial action during the recent strikes, was incorrect.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has checked the figures and the answer should read:

> The number of staff, by Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre, who have taken strike action in each strike affecting the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in the last five years, is shown as follows:

	Strike Date		
	6 March	*11 April*	*24 April*
Portland	13	12	11
Solent	17	11	16
Dover	12	10	11
Thames	11	11	12
Yarmouth	9	8	9
Number	8	7	12
Forth	10	6	6
Aberdeen	9	5	6
Shetland	0	0	0
Stornoway	6	6	2
Clyde	11	9	5
Belfast	11	11	2
Liverpool	13	15	11
Holyhead	14	11	9
Milford Haven	9	8	7
Swansea	14	12	15
Falmouth	12	11	10
Brixham	9	10	11
London	2	2	2
Total	190	165	157

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 16 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Energy Council

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Luxembourg on 6 June.

The Council was dominated by negotiations on the internal energy market, resulting in an agreement on a general approach on the third energy package that represents a significant step forward in developing the internal energy market. There was also a short policy debate on the renewables directive in the context of the 2020 climate and energy legislative package, and information from the presidency and Commission on international energy issues.

Discussions on the internal energy market were based on a compromise presidency report, which set out the essential elements of the third energy package. The issue of unbundling was discussed in a restricted session over lunch. Although not all member states were able to agree with all aspects of the report, and some member states argued that the agreement should only cover unbundling, the presidency finally concluded agreement on a general approach on all elements of the third energy package, including agreement on the detail of the unbundling provisions, based on amendments to the presidency report.

The agreement on unbundling is a significant advance on the current arrangements for legal unbundling. I secured agreement that the current grid arrangements in Scotland should be allowed to continue, provided that they guarantee more effective independence of the network operator than the legal unbundling agreed. There was also broad support for the provisions on regulators' independence and the role of the agency. There will be further discussions of provisions relating to non-EU control of networks to address concerns about implications for protectionism, Commission competence and EU inward investment. The presidency and its successor now have a mandate to complete negotiations on the legal texts, with a view to reaching a common position as soon as possible.

There was a short policy debate on the 2020 climate and energy package, focusing on the draft renewables directive. Member states commented on targets, the trading regime and biofuels. For the UK, I tabled a joint paper with two other member states proposing a simplified intra-EU renewables trading system to help member states secure the EU renewables targets most cost effectively. On biofuels, some member states emphasised the importance of a sustainability framework reflecting the 2007 Spring European Council conclusions.

On international energy relations, the Commission reported on recent activity on a variety of initiatives, including the EU-OPEC dialogue, implementation of the Energy Community Treaty, the memorandum of understanding with Turkmenistan, and EU-Russia relations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Payments Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the Rural Payments Agency the following performance targets for 2008-09:

> To have paid 80 per cent. by value of valid 2008 single payment scheme (SPS) claims by 31 January 2009 and 90 per cent. by value of valid 2008 SPS claims by 31 March 2009.
>
> To process and pay at least 90 per cent. of valid claims, by volume, for trader and rural development implementation schemes (TARDIS) within ministerial guidelines, and 99 per cent. within the set EU Commission deadlines or in their absence 60 days of receipt of the claim.
>
> To record 98 per cent. of notifications of births, deaths and movements of cattle on the cattle tracing system (CTS) within 14 days of their receipt.
>
> To make 98 per cent. of all rural development programme for England (RDPE) payments on behalf of Natural England and regional development agencies (RDAs) in accordance with agreed service level agreement (SLA) targets.
>
> To demonstrate an improving trend in customer satisfaction by achieving an annual average customer satisfaction score of 6.5 as measured through surveys of external customers and demonstrating a reduction in complaints.
>
> To demonstrate a 10 per cent. reduction from the 2007-08 year in the cost of administering the RPA without compromising service delivery.
>
> To minimise disallowance risks and make payments accurate to within 2 per cent. materiality for all subsidy schemes under RPA's direct management.
>
> To demonstrate improved capacity and capability to deliver services and implement change.

Further details are given in the RPA business plan for 2008-09, copies of which will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Central Science Laboratory

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I have set the central science laboratory (CSL) the following performance targets for 2008-09:

SERVICE DELIVERY QUALITY

> Outputs from applied research R&D are delivered to deadline, meet agreed quality standards, answer the policy questions and are presented in a way that is useful to policy makers and other delivery bodies.
>
> Outputs from monitoring/surveillance are timely, accurate, and their presentation and explication useful to policy makers and other delivery bodies.
>
> To achieve a mean score of 4.2 on a scale of 0 to 5 for the assessment of customer satisfaction to reflect a recalibrated baseline.

VALUE FOR PUBLIC MONEY

> To recover the full economic costs of the agency's services from Government Departments, agencies and external customers.
>
> To deliver the efficiency targets set out in the business plan.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

> To deliver key outcomes against the 2006 science audit implementation—including a communication strategy; a co-ordinated approach to international science collaboration; increasing staff involvement in scientific publications; and commercial exploitation of research outputs.
>
> To extend technical capability to support emergency response strategies across the public sector.
>
> To work with other constituent organisation heads and DEFRA's delivery transformation programme, providing sufficient CSL resource, in implementing the new Regulatory Science Agency for vesting on 1 April 2009.

Further details are given in the CSL business plan for 2008-09, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 9 and 10 June 2008. The health part was held on 10 June. Andy Lebrecht, deputy permanent representative to Brussels, represented the United Kingdom.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Slovenian presidency themes of reducing the burden of cancer and tackling anti-microbial resistance. Ministers also adopted Council conclusions on the implementation mechanisms for the European Union health strategy. The UK intervened on this point to emphasise the importance of the work on health inequalities as part of the health strategy, in particular that this work should have clear links to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report on health inequalities and social determinants by Sir Michael Marmot, to be published in September. The UK invited all member states to a conference in light of the report, due to take place in November in London.

Ministers also adopted Council conclusions on the provision of information to patients on medicinal products. This was followed by a policy debate, where Ministers discussed the Commission's intention to bring forward a proposal on information to patients on medicinal products in the future, with member states exchanging views and experiences in this area.

Over lunch, there was a discussion on the EU action plan for combating tuberculosis, which was published in February 2008. The discussion was introduced with a presentation from Zsuszanna Jakab, director of the European centre for disease control, who emphasised the importance of EU work with the WHO and third countries to reduce tuberculosis (TB). Member states were supportive of the work and discussed their experiences of tackling TB at a national level.

Under 'any other business', Commissioner Androula Vassiliou made a statement about the forthcoming cross-border healthcare directive, which the Commission intend to publish this summer.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 17 June 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

The Teaching of Mathematics

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 10 July 2007, I announced that Sir Peter Williams had agreed to undertake a review of the teaching of mathematics in early years settings and primary schools in England (*Official report*, columns 1319 and 1320). Today the review's final report has been published and I have written to Sir Peter Williams to confirm that we will implement the recommendations the review panel has made.

The review, over the course of almost a year, has explored the important areas of: effective pedagogy of mathematics teaching; the range of provision required for pupils of all ability levels; the Every Child Counts programme—announced by the Prime Minister in May 2007; the conceptual and subject knowledge which should be expected of primary school teachers and early years practitioners; the most effective sequencing and design of the mathematics curriculum; and how parents should be helped to support young children's mathematical development.

All children should receive the quality of mathematical teaching during their primary school years that ensures they reach their potential and have the opportunity to enjoy mathematics. We must build on the progress made since the introduction of the national numeracy strategy in 1998 and ensure that we address the problem set out in the report that it is culturally acceptable to admit to being poor at mathematics. Raising the profile of mathematics and attainment in all schools will begin to do this. I believe we will achieve this through implementing the key recommendations as follows:

> there should be at least one mathematics specialist in each primary school, in post within 10 years, with deep subject and pedagogical knowledge, making appropriate arrangements for small and rural schools. Implementation should commence in 2009 and be targeted initially to maximise impact on standards and to narrow attainment gaps. We are investing £24 million in this over the next three years;
>
> local authorities should upskill their field force of mathematics consultants; and
>
> Every Child Counts should take place in Year 2 and generally be taught by a qualified teacher and involve one child.

I am placing in the Library a copy of the final report and also the letter I sent to Sir Peter Williams confirming that we will be implementing all recommendations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Management Responsibilities

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Prime Minister announced on 14 May in the draft legislative programme that the Government intend to publish a draft Floods and Water Bill for consultation in 2009. The provisions of the Bill are currently being scoped, and will need to reflect the recommendations in Sir Michael Pitt's final report on last summer's floods, but I wish to inform the House that it is the Government's intention that the draft Bill will:

> streamline current flood and coastal erosion risk management legislation, including the interrelationship of roles and responsibilities between the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards. In line with the Government's strategy "Making Space for Water", I can confirm that the Environment Agency will take on a new strategic overview role for flood risk management in England from whatever source;
>
> revise existing legislation which talks in terms of 'defence' from flooding, to provide for a more comprehensive approach to managing all flooding risks. A new Floods Bill will allow us to reflect all types of flooding, including surface water flooding and coastal erosion. We are preparing the draft Bill on the basis that local authorities will be given the responsibility for surface water flooding, under the Environment Agency's overview. In particular, local authorities will have lead responsibility for surface water management plans;
>
> review reservoir safety legislation which dates from the 1930s, to reflect current risk-based approaches, new threats, and the ageing nature of reservoirs in this country; and
>
> explore the potential for reducing administrative burdens by addressing the complex legal instruments that DEFRA has to use under current legislation.

These steps are consistent with Sir Michael Pitt's interim report which recommended that flooding legislation should be updated and streamlined under a single unifying Act of Parliament.

The current timetable is for a consultation draft of the Bill to be published in Spring 2009, with the Bill being available for introduction in a later parliamentary Session.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Luxembourg on 5 and 6 June 2008. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice; my right hon. Friend the Attorney-General; the Scottish Solicitor-General, Frank Mulholland, and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed:

> The Commission gave an update on the revised timetable for delivery of the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II). Member states reaffirmed their commitment to the project but stressed the importance of the Commission delivering on time.
>
> The Council Secretariat reported some minor delays in the implementation of the SIS Communication Network and stated that better preparation from Member states would ensure that there were no further delays.
>
> The Council agreed a compromise text on the Returns Directive, which could enable a first reading agreement providing it is approved by the European Parliament later this month. The UK has not opted in to this directive.
>
> Discussion continued on the directive for Beneficiaries of International Protection. Member states could not reach consensus on the scope of the directive and the qualifying period for

long-term residence. The presidency concluded that there would be no further attempts to secure agreement under the Slovenian presidency.

The Commission supported calls for EU action to resettle refugees from Iraq in principle, although they wanted United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involvement as they were concerned about resettling people directly from Iraqi territory. The UK noted its own efforts in this area and supported the involvement of more Member states in resettlement, but stated it must be a permanent solution, not just a temporary humanitarian evacuation. The incoming French presidency said that it would consider pursuing further EU resettlement activity.

The Council reached a general approach on the package of Prüm-related legal instruments, which provide an improved mechanism for the sharing of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data for the purposes of preventing, investigating and prosecuting serious crime. The Commission underlined its support.

The EU Counter Terrorism Co-ordinator introduced his reports on the implementation of the EU counter-terrorism strategy and action plan, emphasising the importance of technical assistance to third countries and of information exchange. He stated that radicalisation and recruitment was the main priority in the next six months and urged the Commission to issue its communication on this subject as quickly as possible. The Commission confirmed that it would do so. Member states welcomed the work of the co-ordinator and supported his recommendations. The UK particularly welcomed the focus on radicalisation and recruitment and prioritisation of work with Sahel/North Africa and Pakistan. The UK had launched its national strategy on Prevent the previous week, and would share its experience in leading the workstream on communications. The presidency noted that the new ad hoc Council group on information exchange would contribute to work on counter-terrorism.

The Council endorsed the EU-Australia passenger name record agreement and the Commission remarked that the Australian PNR agreement should be a reference point for future PNR agreements.

The presidency reported on the successful outcome of negotiations with the European Parliament about the proposal for a directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

The presidency outlined the background to the proposal to amend the Ship Source Pollution Directive to include criminal penalties for breaches of the rules.

The Council reached a general approach on the framework decision on the enforcement of decisions rendered in absentia. Many delegations intervened fully to support the compromise agreement. The Commission stressed that the instrument must come into effect without delay and called on Member states to lift parliamentary reservations as quickly as possible. They noted that Parliament's opinion was still due and that the form must be finalised by Justice and Home Affairs counsellors. The UK and other delegations warmly congratulated the presidency on their work on this initiative.

The UK welcomed the progress made on the draft Eurojust Council decision and supported the overall package proposed on Articles 5a, 9a-9g, 12 and 13 concerning: on-call co-ordination within Eurojust; the powers of national members; the establishment of a Eurojust national co-ordination system; and the exchange of information, noting that it struck the right balance. With the exception of one member state, which retained a reserve on article 9, all could accept the compromise text and the presidency therefore concluded that a general approach had been reached. The presidency also concluded that the outstanding reserve could be dealt with in a recital to be discussed at a later date.

The Council agreed a compromise package on a number of aspects of the proposed maintenance regulation. In particular, to accommodate UK concerns, it was agreed that the applicable law rules should be removed from the regulation and that those Member states that wish to apply such rules will use the optional protocol to the recently agreed Hague convention on maintenance. The UK confirmed that this solution removed the main obstacle to future UK participation in the adopted regulation.

It has been accepted that it will not be possible to agree Rome III—choice of law in divorce—in its current form as there is no unanimity in the Council. It was agreed that there should be a period of reflection to explore how work in this area can be taken forward. One option that will be considered will be the use of enhanced co-operation.

The presidency provided a report on the progress that had been made on e-justice and the priorities for future work. This was followed by a presentation from the Commission of a recent communication which sets out a strategy for e-justice work including proposals for how this will be financed.

The presidency reported on the implementation of the JHA external relations strategy. The Commission said there would be a review of the external strategy under the French presidency. The third report, due out in 2009, would be the basis for a new strategy. The incoming French presidency confirmed that implementation of this strategy would be a priority over the next 18 months. The presidency also reported on the EU-Russia JHA ministerial troika and EU-U[illegible]ne ministerial troika.

Greece outlined the challenges posed by high levels of asylum applications and illegal immigration. They welcomed EU financial assistance but would prefer increased burden sharing. Priorities also included more work in countries of origin; information on legal migration opportunities; and more work on readmission agreements. Some member states offered practical assistance, but emphasised the need to uphold the integrity of the Dublin system and opposed any form of intra-EU resettlement. Further discussion on migration challenges at the EU border states will take place under the French presidency.

The Rome I regulation on choice of law in contracts was formally adopted without discussion. The UK did not opt in to this proposal, but the Government are consulting with a view to accepting the measure post-adoption.

Over lunch there was a discussion of the proposal for an EU PNR agreement, with the presidency seeking views on what member states would wish to achieve under the incoming French presidency. All agreed that adoption of the measure would not be possible this year, leaving the possibility that it would have to happen under the Lisbon treaty if that were to enter into force in 2009. The UK urged progress during the French presidency. The Commission wanted to press ahead with discussion at both a technical level as well as politically.

Member states also congratulated the presidency on the work of the interior future group, considering ideas for inclusion in the new JHA work programme when the current programme expires at the end of 2009. Migration was stressed by many as the top priority for future work in JHA.

JUSTICE

Bail and Murder

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): In January this year, a man killed his mother-in-law before taking his own life. At the time, he was on bail awaiting trial for the alleged murder of his wife. On 16 January 2008 my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, answering a question about the case (*Official Report*, Col. 925), said that the Government would be looking at the law on bail.

Bail decisions in murder cases will never be easy; the vital thing is to ensure that the courts strike the right balance between respecting individuals' rights to liberty and protecting the public. The Government's aim is to target custody as precisely as possible upon those cases where there is a risk of harm to the public. We are today publishing a consultation paper that sets out possible ways of helping the courts to achieve that aim. We shall take account of views expressed in response to it in deciding whether to pursue these ideas. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that "if any changes in the law are necessary, we will make them". The Government do not take it for granted that it will be necessary to amend legislation, but we shall not hesitate to bring forward whatever changes in guidance, rules or the law that may be needed.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Baker Report

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): On 16 January 2008, in publishing the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) report "Review of Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances 2007" (Cm 7270), I announced in a written ministerial statement (Col. 32WS) that the Government would "examine options that find objective criteria for determining the appropriate comparator used for MPs' pay awards within a framework that does not require MPs to vote in future years, and accordingly have asked Sir John Baker, CBE—the retiring chair of SSRB—to conduct a review and make proposals on options for consideration".

On 23 January 2008, I set out in a written ministerial statement (column 56WS) the terms of reference of the Sir John Baker review, which were as follows:

Review of the mechanism for determining the pay and pensions for Members of Parliament

> to examine options and make recommendations for a mechanism for independently determining the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament which does not involve MPs voting on their own pay; the appropriate comparator; and the frequency with which reviews of the use of the comparator take place;
>
> to ensure that the independent mechanism takes account of the Government's policy on public sector pay and its target for inflation; and
>
> to have regard to the need for any independent mechanism to maintain the support and trust of the public and Members of Parliament.

The review should seek to:

> examine comparable international mechanisms and the resulting experience;
>
> address the constitutional framework alongside legal and legislative considerations;
>
> consider the range of evidence that should be considered by the recommended independent mechanism in determining an appropriate comparator;
>
> consider the membership and remit of any independent body that may be part of the pay setting process;
>
> give due consideration to consistency with other public service wage setting mechanisms and wage settlements across the public service; and
>
> outline a recommended timetable for transition to any new system.

On 24 January 2008, in the debate on the Senior Salaries Review Body report (Cm 7270), the House of Commons:

> endorsed the proposal that Sir John Baker should be invited to make recommendations on both the comparator and mechanism for setting MPs' pay;
>
> agreed that the system for determining the salaries of Members of Parliament should be reviewed, in particular with a view to removing the need for final decisions on salaries to be subject to approval by the House of Commons; and
>
> agreed that particular recommendations on allowances in the SSRB report "be referred to the Members Estimate Committee for further consideration following consultation with the Advisory Panel on Members Allowances".

I am today publishing the report from Sir John Baker CBE on "Review of Parliamentary Pay and Pensions" (Cm 7146). It makes recommendations about the current pay of MPs and the mechanisms for future uprating. Copies are available in the Vote Office. I am grateful to Sir John Baker for his work.

To support the publication of this report, the Government are also publishing their memorandum (Cm 7418) which was sent to Sir John to form part of his review on 20 May 2008.

The Government have considered Sir John's report and will table motions in advance of the debate on 3 July which will enable the House to vote on resolutions to express and implement their views.

The Government accept Sir John's recommendation that the SSRB should remain the independent body which conducts reviews of MPs' pay, that these reviews should occur once in each Parliament and that the outcome of these reviews should be implemented without the need for further debates or votes in the House.

The debate comes at a time when it is vital for economic stability that there is a disciplined, responsible approach to pay in both the private and the public sector to hold down inflationary pressures. It is important that senior figures in the public and private sector lead by example in taking a disciplined and restrained approach to pay.

The Government do not accept Sir John's recommendation that MPs' salaries should be increased by £650 a year for the next three years. MPs should set the example at a time of public sector pay restraint. The Government will also not be supporting a link between MPs' salaries and the three-month average public sector average earnings index. Instead, the Government propose, in line with an alternative proposal provided by Sir John Baker, that MPs should receive the median average of the settlements of a wide basket of public sector workforces.

The motions tabled will offer the House the opportunity to vote to support either the Government's proposal or the options put forward by Sir John.

In addition, the SSRB report also recognised that "if it becomes likely that, unless action is taken, the Exchequer contribution to the cost of accrual of benefits for MPs in service in the parliamentary contributory pension fund—excluding payments to amortise the accumulated deficit identified in the 2005 valuation of the Fund—would rise above 20 per cent. of payroll, that there should be a major review of the fund" (recommendation 9).

The Government Actuary's Department has now advised that it anticipates that the cost of accruing benefits would indeed rise above 20 per cent. of payroll. This has effectively triggered the need for the major review recommended by the SSRB, and I will therefore be asking the SSRB to undertake such a review, supported by a panel of people with relevant expertise.

Given that the review will need to consider, amongst other things, the findings of the Government Actuary's valuation of the PCPF which is to be completed in March 2009, the SSRB would not be expected to report before Spring next year.

PRIME MINISTER

Review Body on Senior Salaries

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The 30th report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries is being published today. This makes recommendations about the pay of the senior civil service (SCS), senior military personnel, the judiciary and very senior NHS managers. Copies have been laid in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Review Body for their work.

The Government have decided to accept all of the main recommendations of the Review Body as they are affordable and consistent with public sector pay policy. They will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2008. The cost of the awards will be met from within existing Departmental Expenditure Limits.

Senior Civil Service

For the SCS, the Review Body has recommended that for the three-year period 2008-2011 there should be an indicative envelope of 7 per cent. pay bill available for normal base pay increases and additions to the pot for non-consolidated bonuses. This multi-year pay arrangement will provide certainty and stability for Departments and the workforce. The Government have decided to accept the recommended 7 per cent. envelope, but believes that the appropriate metric is pay bill per head rather than pay bill. This ensures that in the event of any changes in workforce size individual pay awards remain consistent with public sector pay policy. The envelope for SCS pay increases and bonuses over the next three years will therefore be 7 per cent. of pay bill per head.

For 2008-09, the Review Body has recommended a headline award of 1.5 per cent. and a 1 per cent. increase to the size of the bonus pot.

The Review Body has recommended that progression target rates for pay bands 1 and 1A should be retained. The Government have decided to replace them with 'reference points', which will serve a similar purpose but no longer have any limiting point on pay increases for serving staff.

Senior Military Personnel

The main recommendations of the Review Body on senior military pay are:

an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the base pay for senior military officers;

that 2- and 3-star officers (Major Generals and Lieutenant Generals, and equivalents) receive an element of the X-factor—a supplement to base pay in recognition of the differences between military and civilian life—to be phased in over three years commencing 1 April 08;

that the pay scales are restructured over the course of the next three years in order to give 1-star officers (Brigadiers and equivalents) a 10 per cent. minimum pay increase on promotion to 2-star.

Judiciary

The Review Body's main recommendation for the judiciary is an increase averaging slightly over 2.5 per cent. for almost all judicial salaries.

Very Senior NHS Managers

The Review Body considered the pay of very senior NHS managers for the first time this year. It has recommended a 2.2 per cent. increase in the pay of these managers from 1 April 2008.

Members of Parliament and Ministers

Ministers' pay is automatically linked to the average increase in the midpoint of SCS pay, which moves in line with SSRB recommendations. However, given the importance of public sector pay restraint at a time of economic uncertainty Ministers will not be accepting any pay rise in 2008-09.

There is no longer a link between the SSRB's recommendations and the pay of Members of Parliament as there has been in previous years. My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons is making a statement today on the report into parliamentary pay and allowances, conducted by Sir John Baker, CBE.

Conclusion

The Government have accepted the main recommendations of the SSRB. The three-year pay award for the senior civil service will help to deliver economic stability and brings the total of public servants covered by these three-year deals to over 1.5 million.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 18 June 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Telecoms Council Meeting

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness (Baroness Vadera) has made the following statement:

> Further to the written statement concerning the positions I intended to take at the Telecommunications Council held on 12 June 2008, I am pleased to be able to report back on the main conclusions and topics of discussion.
>
> The Telecommunications Council took place on 12 June 2008 under the chair of the Slovenian presidency, where I represented the United Kingdom. As expected, the Commission review of the electronic telecommunications framework was the main focus and the discussion was based around three questions, set by the presidency, on next generation networks (NGN), institutional arrangements and spectrum.
>
> After an introduction from Commissioner Reding, there was a full exchange of views on the review with nearly all member states participating. There was a general acceptance on a need to embrace market mechanisms on spectrum, and also that functional separation is a useful remedy of last resort to encourage competition. There were, however, some negative views being expressed about Commission powers and the need for a single European Electronic Communications Market Authority. On next generation networks there was general support for a predictable regulatory framework that would encourage investments by operators.
>
> I intervened to support the Commissioner's aim of reaching early agreement on the review amongst member states and with the European Parliament. I noted the importance of NGN, and stressed the importance of competition in ensuring successful introduction. I emphasised that the UK did not support regulatory holidays to promote the introduction of new services, and that there was clear evidence of the success of functional separation in the UK. I supported the Commission having new powers of last resort to veto decisions made by national regulators where these have not followed best practice. On spectrum, I said that we do not want enforced harmonisation and that a market-led approach is the best way to ensure both that spectrum is used and also to encourage the development of innovative services.
>
> Council conclusions on the digital dividend were adopted with very little discussion. These conclusions were endorsed by Commissioner Reding who believes that there is a 'win-win' situation for both broadcasters and for new players providing innovative products.
>
> Over lunch, I and other Ministers in attendance discussed the proposed European Electronic Communications Market Authority. The majority supported either an enhanced European Regulators' Group (ERG) as an advisory body or nothing at all. I supported the enhanced ERG provided it was an independent advisory body as part of the revised legal framework with a scope limited to giving economic market advice to the Commission. The consensus was for a simple body that would be accountable to stakeholders. It would not be involved with information security or spectrum matters, but rather concentrate of advising on matters of economic regulation.
>
> The Council conclusions on i2010 were adopted with very little discussion. Commissioner Reding spoke of the need to raise the targets for broadband deployment across member states and to utilise public/private partnerships to this aim.
>
> The general approach for a proposal for extending the mandate of ENISA was introduced and the importance of this was stressed. The Commission are supportive of a three-year extension, and this was approved with very little discussion.
>
> The Commission provided information on its Communication regarding advancing the internet-action plan for the deployment of internet protocol version 6. It was claimed that the existing pool of internet addresses would run out in three years unless this upgrade took place. Member states, stakeholders and content providers were called upon to act. There is a target for 25 per cent. of users to be IPv6 by 2010.
>
> Portugal produced a paper on broadband indicators stating the importance of mobile technologies when compiling statistics for broadband availability. Commissioner Reding was supportive, and said that her proposals took this into account.
>
> The presidency gave an update on the procedure for the selection of mobile satellite services (MSS) operators. Some states are unhappy with the proposed procedure as it could result in 50 per cent. of the EU not being provided with coverage. The proposed MSS decision will, however, be agreed at a Council in the next few weeks.
>
> The final item was a request by the Netherlands for SMS roaming prices to be reduced at the earliest opportunity. There was no substantive discussion on this item.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 21-22 May. The Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Heritage, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, represented the UK for the cultural and audiovisual agenda items taken on 21 May.

Audiovisual Items

The Council adopted the conclusions on media literacy, noting the forthcoming Commission study to develop indicators in this area.

A general approach was reached on the programme protecting children using the internet—a five-year funding programme with a €55 million budget aimed at tackling illegal and harmful internet content.

The Council also discussed creative content online, in advance of a Commission recommendation of the Parliament and the Council in the autumn. A number of member states shared the UK view that new business models should be allowed to develop naturally through the market, and that new EU legislation risked stifling innovation. However, there was broad support for EU action to address piracy and illegal downloads.

A number of smaller member states were keen to prevent the loss of cultural diversity which they felt resulted from monopoly distributors. Member states also welcomed the Commission's new content online platform—a forum for further discussion.

The presidency updated the Council on telecoms networks and services. They had produced a compromise proposal but some difficult issues remained, including on spectrum trading. The Slovenian presidency would present a report in June and then pass to the forthcoming French presidency.

The Commission summarised their communication on video games and pushed member states to implement the voluntary Pan European Game Information (PEGI) system for age rating of video games.

The Belgian delegation raised anti-Semitic broadcasting originating outside the EU and therefore not covered by EU legislation. The Commission encouraged Member states to deal with such broadcasts through dialogue with the third countries involved.

Culture Items

Council conclusions on intercultural competences were agreed without discussion. Council conclusions on the 3rd work plan for culture 2008-2010 were also agreed by the Council. This followed on from discussion at the November 2007 Culture Council that established the priorities for 2008-2010. The presidency reported back on the establishment of an open method of co-ordination for culture and proposed a timetable for future work. This was unanimously agreed: only Cyprus and Greece called for greater emphasis on the return of stolen goods.

Under 'any other business', Sweden—supported by some other delegations—called for reduced rates of VAT on books to be widened to include audiobooks. The Netherlands went even further and called for digital books to also be included. The UK and Germany were more cautious: the ECOFIN Council is the appropriate forum for such discussions.

Also under 'any other business', Greece announced the opening of its Parthenon museum. Ministers would be invited to the inauguration.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Central Science Laboratory

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Central Science Laboratory will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Pesticides Safety Directorate

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Pesticides Safety Directorate will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Rural Payments Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): This statement corrects Monday's written ministerial statement on the Rural Payments Agency, 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 38WS.

I have set the Rural Payments Agency the following performance targets for 2008-09.

To have paid 75 per cent. by value of valid 2008 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims by 31 January 2009 and 90 per cent. by value of valid 2008 SPS claims by 31 March 2009.

To process and pay at least 90 per cent. of valid claims, by volume, for Trader and Rural Development Implementation Schemes (TARDIS) within ministerial guidelines and 99 per cent. within the set EU Commission deadlines or in their absence 60 days of receipt of the claim.

To record 98 per cent. of notifications of births, deaths and movements of cattle on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) within 14 days of their receipt.

To make 98 per cent. of all Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) payments in accordance with agreed Service Level Agreement (SLA) targets.

To demonstrate an improving trend in customer satisfaction by achieving an annual average customer satisfaction score of 6.5 as measured through surveys of external customers and demonstrating a reduction in complaints.

To demonstrate a 10 per cent. reduction from the 2007-08 year in the cost of administering the RPA without compromising service delivery.

To minimise disallowance risks and make payments accurate to within 2 per cent. materiality for all subsidy schemes under RPA's direct management.

To demonstrate improved capacity and capability to deliver services and implement change.

Further details are given in the RPA strategy and business plan for 2008-09—2010-11 a copy of which will be provided to the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime and Communities Review

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The report of the Casey review, "Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime", is published today. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

The report acknowledges the vital role the public play in working with neighbourhood police teams and local authorities to help make communities feel safe and secure, helping set local policing priorities, and building public confidence in crime fighting agencies. It sets out proposals to put the interests of the public and the law-abiding majority first.

The review was commissioned by the Prime Minister and the report considers five areas: putting victims, witnesses and other law-abiding citizens first; fighting crime and delivering justice for communities; a new approach to crime statistics; the citizen's role in tackling crime; and freedoms and accountability.

The Casey review report is also available from the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/crime.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma Cyclone Nargis - (Written Statement Correction)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The written parliamentary statement issued on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 57-58 WS, on Burma Cyclone Nargis stated that "none of the UK's assistance will go through the Burmese regime". This statement reflected a reply I gave to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 2 June.

On 10 June I was informed that there were conflicting reports over the destination of 9,000 plastic sheets that DFID had delivered to Save the Children for distribution to victims of the cyclone. These reports indicated that the Burmese Ministry of Social Welfare had requested these sheets from Save the Children. I immediately asked officials to make enquiries to ascertain the facts. The permanent secretary of the Department for International Development concluded these enquiries and updated me on 17 June. The permanent secretary also expressed our strong concern to the chief executive of Save the Children on the same day.

These enquiries confirmed that on 6 June, Save the Children was approached through the Burmese Ministry of Home Affairs for plastic sheets to repair schools. After discussion with the UN humanitarian co-ordinator and despite attempts to negotiate alternative arrangements, Save the Children handed the remaining 9,000 sheets in their warehouse to the Ministry of Social Welfare on 7 June.

Save the Children's own enquiries indicate that, to date, 5,800 of the sheets have been distributed in Laputta township to repair housing, including for teachers. Save the Children was not involved in the distribution, although they have been able to monitor how the sheeting has been used. The remaining sheets are in the warehouse of the Laputta township Co-ordination Committee and Save the Children plan to monitor their distribution.

These 9,000 sheets were part of an overall consignment of 131,000 sheets that had been delivered by DFID to international NGOs, the Red Cross and the UN to assist the victims of the cyclone. The 9,000 sheets represent around 0.25 per cent. of the total £27.5 million committed by the UK for humanitarian assistance in Burma.

On 17 June the permanent secretary wrote to the chief executive of Save the Children expressing concern over this episode and noting that Save the Children would secure replacement of the 9,000 sheets and distribute these through their own independent channels as soon as possible, as originally agreed with DFID. The UN has offered to help Save the Children secure replacement plastic sheets quickly.

DFID staff are re-checking with other partners through which we channel funds and goods. We have not found evidence of any other incident yet of UK goods or funding being channelled through the Burmese regime. We will continue to monitor the delivery of UK assistance to our UN, NGO and Red Cross partners for the victims of the cyclone.

JUSTICE

Legal Services Ombudsman and Legal Services Complaints Commissioner

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Legal Services Act 2007 establishes a new regime for handling complaints about the provision of legal services with the creation of the Legal Services Board (LSB) and the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC). The LSB will be an over-arching regulator and the OLC will deal with all complaints about regulated legal service providers.

The OLC will be a new organisation that is completely independent of the legal profession. Therefore, once the OLC becomes fully operational, the professional bodies' own arrangements for handling complaints will cease and the government bodies with oversight of these—the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsman (OLSO) and the Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (OLSCC)—will no longer be required.

Based on current planning assumptions, the LSB will become fully operational early 2010 and the OLC will become fully operational in late 2010. Therefore, in line with the current timetable, the OLSCC will close in March 2010 and the OLSO will close no earlier than December 2010.

Both offices have provided a very valuable service to consumers and I am sure they will continue to do so until the new arrangements become operational.

Coroner Reform (Draft Charter for the Bereaved)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today I am publishing a revised draft version of the charter for the bereaved for comment. The charter describes the services bereaved people can expect to receive from a reformed coroner system, and sets out the rights of redress if services are not delivered. It additionally explains appeal rights against particular decisions taken by coroners in individual cases. The charter makes it clear that the needs of bereaved people will be at the centre of the reformed system.

Public consultation on the charter was previously undertaken in 2006 when it was published alongside the draft Coroners Bill. There were further informal consultations with those who work within the current system, and several voluntary sector groups which interact with it, during 2007. Changes were made as a result and are reflected in this new draft, together with the changes made as a result of consultation on the Bill, which I announced in March. I am publishing the charter now to provide a further opportunity for comments in advance of the planned introduction of a Coroners and Death Certification Bill in the next Session of Parliament. As with the draft Bill, it is my intention to publish an updated version when the Bill proper is introduced.

Copies of the draft charter for the bereaved have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Freedom of Information Act

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Third Annual Report on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in Central Government—2007" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and are available on the internet at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation quarterly.htm

This is the third annual report analysing the performance of central Government in the third full year of freedom of information.

Legal Aid Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath), has made the following written ministerial statement:

"On 18 June, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Legal Services Commission (LSC) published a consultation document containing proposals for changes to the Family Graduated Fees Scheme (FGFS), which governs payments to barristers for family legal aid work. This is a full consultation which will run for 12 weeks, until 10 September 2008.

Currently, there is a significant difference between the rates for advocacy paid to solicitors and those paid to barristers under the FGFS. The Government seek to ensure value for money in the legal services it purchases by moving to a system where the same fee is paid for the same service to the client, regardless of the type of advocate who delivers it. To that end, the LSC had planned to introduce a single harmonised family advocacy scheme for solicitors and barristers in April 2008. However, the implementation of the new scheme has been deferred until April 2010 as a condition of the agreement between the MoJ, the LSC and the Law Society, following judgment on the unified contract dispute. The LSC will instead be conducting a consultation from September 2008 on proposals for family advocacy payments to both solicitors and barristers from April 2010. These proposals are likely to suggest the restructuring or removal of the FGFS, and removal of some or all of the differentials in payments between solicitors and barristers conducting family advocacy.

In the interim, the proposals set out in today's consultation paper will pave the way for the April 2010 changes by narrowing the gap between payments to barristers and solicitors. The Government consider that if reductions are in fact made to the Family Graduated Fees Scheme following this consultation, barristers will still continue to be remunerated fairly.

Legal aid operates within a fixed budget and the Department is obliged to take action to remain within that budget. Expenditure on legal aid barrister family advocacy has risen from £74 million to nearly £100 million in the last five years, and currently payments to family barristers form over 10 per cent. of the overall civil legal aid budget. The consultation proposals set out different options for reducing FGFS expenditure in order to live within budget, while ensuring the provision of services by sufficient numbers of competent advocates. Controlling family advocacy costs is essential so that services to people needing help with civil and family problems are not threatened.

The Government value the input of practitioners and interested parties on the ongoing reform of civil and family legal aid. We encourage all those with an interest to contribute fully to the current consultation. The consultation document "Reforming the Legal Aid Family Barrister Fee Scheme" is available on the MoJ website at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1208.htm, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office."

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 June 2008

TREASURY

EU Budget Review

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Treasury is today publishing "Global Europe: Vision for a 21st century budget", the UK response to the European Commission's consultation on the EU budget review. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government have today published the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on 21 January 2008".

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/gypsiesandtravellers/gypsyandtravellersitedataandstat/

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the UK at the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on 5 June 2008.

At this Council, member states set out their views so far on the 2020 climate and energy package. The UK intervened to stress the importance of reaching agreement on the package this year. With regard to the EU emissions trading system, the UK highlighted the need for a sufficiently robust central cap with a clear downwards emissions reduction trajectory as proposed by the European Commission, and supported the linking of emissions trading systems as a building block towards a global carbon market. The UK also emphasized our opposition to mandatory earmarking or hypothecation of auction revenues, and the reassignment of auctioning rights. Elsewhere, the UK stressed the importance of focusing on the objective of a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as part of an international agreement on climate change. The UK broadly welcomed the Commission's legislative proposal on carbon capture and storage. Finally, the UK emphasised the importance of developing coherent sustainability criteria for biofuels based on the evidence available and taking into account not just the direct effects but also indirect effects such as indirect land-use change.

Member states also set out their positions on the Commission's proposal for a regulation to reduce CO_2 emissions from new cars. The UK welcomed the proposal, called for the addition of a challenging long term target for CO_2 emissions reductions to 2020 in addition to the proposed 2012 target. The UK also stressed the need for provisions to protect independent niche and small-volume manufacturers.

Ministers discussed the way forward on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The UK intervened to strongly support the principles behind the current evidence-based, case by case decision-making process and the central role of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The UK supported examination of measures to speed the current process up but stressed that this must be done within the current regulatory framework, and must not compromise safety or conflict with World Trade Organisation (WTO) obligations.

Under 'any other business', the presidency provided information on the Euro VI regulation; the conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity; the conference of the parties to the Cartagena protocol on biosafety; progress under the Bali road map; the outcome of the "Bridging the Gap" conference, and; the implementation of the action programme for the implementation of the territorial agenda of the EU. At the request of delegations, additional AOB items included proposals for sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial policy and information on the fourth meeting of the parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Government Decontamination Service (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister for the Environment (Mr. Phil Woolas): The 2007-08 annual report and accounts for the Government Decontamination Service will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

HEALTH

Dementia Care

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): Today the Government is publishing "Transforming the Quality of Dementia Care: Consultation on a National Dementia Strategy".

In August 2007 I announced a programme of work to develop the first national dementia strategy for England. This document is to stimulate debate on how we can develop the final strategy and ensure a better life in the future for people affected by dementia.

This consultation marks one of the most important stages in this programme, and invites people with dementia, their families and carers and those involved professionally in health and social care to tell us what they think we need to do to improve dementia care.

I would like to place on record my thanks to all of those who have worked so hard to bring the programme to this point in such a short space of time, in particular, Neil Hunt of the Alzheimer's Society who chaired the external reference group of stakeholders, and Professor Sube Banerjee and Jenny Owen who led the project group.

The consultation will run until 11 September 2008 and the Department will publish a report that summarises the responses to this consultation alongside the final version of the national dementia strategy later in the year.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): This year sees the biggest shake-up of our immigration system for 45 years. As part of these changes, I am today setting out reforms to the way the new UK Border Agency enforces the immigration law in communities up and down the UK.

The UK Border Agency leads Her Majesty's Government's work to ensure that newcomers to the UK—as well as businesses and others—play by the rules. The vast majority do, adding tremendous value to the UK. The UK Border Agency's job is to take action when they do not. To achieve this objective we have fundamentally reorganised the UK Border Agency's work:

Putting in place a cross-Government strategy.

Strengthening the law, with automatic deportation for those sentenced to 12 months or more and civil penalties against employers who employ illegal workers.

Increasing by ten-fold the resources dedicated to the removal or deportation of foreign nationals who have committed serious offences, and focusing over 1000 additional immigration staff on enforcement duties.

Exploiting new technology and introducing compulsory ID cards for foreign nationals, trials for which are now in place.

Strengthening new international alliances to help us secure returns, backed by a £40 million joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department For International Development and Home Office fund.

That fundamental shift in resources has delivered important results. In 2007-08 we:

removed over 4,200 foreign national prisoners from the UK, exceeding the Prime Minister's target;

removed over 13,000 failed asylum seekers;

arrested over 5,000 suspected immigration offenders as a result of around 6,300 illegal working operations; and

delivered over 2,000 successful prosecutions and sanctions.

Today I am publishing the UK Border Agency's business plan for enforcing the immigration laws over the next 12 months: "Enforcing the Deal: Our plans for enforcing the immigration laws in the United Kingdom's communities", a copy of which I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The document sets out three key advances which we intend to make in 2008-09:

We will expel more illegal immigrants than last year, enforcing the contract with newcomers by first removing those who have abused our hospitality and broken the law, and implementing the Prime Minister's commitment to deport those who use guns or sell drugs, regardless of the length of their sentence.

We will begin the reorganisation of around 7,500 UK Border Agency staff into between 70 and 80 new Local Immigration Teams to serve every community in the UK, bringing our people closer to the communities we serve and backed by Immigration Crime Partnerships with the police, local authorities and other local partner agencies. We will back our new strategy by doubling the resources we spend on enforcement (2009-10 versus 2006-07).

We will publicly take action against more organised criminals, facilitators and employers who break the law, working in partnership with other business enforcement agencies, rigorously implementing the new civil penalty regime, for the first time publishing information about rogue employers, and introducing ID cards for foreign nationals to make it easier for employers to comply with the law.

Reforms set out in the business plan include:

From today, the UK Border Agency publishing information about employers who hire illegal immigrants.

From this summer, the most serious business offenders will be targeted jointly by UKBA and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in a new intelligence sharing and joint targeting partnership which will come into force from July.

Employers and colleges applying for carefully policed licences to hire migrants.

There will be a joint investment and business plan between UKBA and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

Automatic deportation will be introduced for those sentenced to 12 months in prison or more, and deportation will be imposed for those who use guns or sell drugs regardless of their sentence.

Watch-lists of immigration offenders will be shared with DWP, HMRC and, subject to parliamentary approval, with the private sector fraud prevention agency CIFAS.

By January 2009:

UKBA will have increased the number of foreign national prisoners removed to over 5,000 during 2008;

Local Immigration Teams will be up and running in each region;

a UKBA Criminal Investigation Division will be in place;

90 per cent. of constabularies in England and Wales will have Immigration Crime Partnerships in place; and

five local authority partnerships will have been deployed and evaluated.

In addition, I am today laying an Order under section 20 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to provide a legislative gateway for the sharing of data by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Transport—in relation to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency—and the British Transport Police with the UK Border Agency.

Marriage Visas

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): We are this year undertaking the biggest reform of Britain's immigration and border security system for 45 years.

Alongside the introduction of a points system for migrants who want to work and study, we are modernising the visa system for short-term visits and marriage.

Today I am publishing the results of our consultation on reform to spouse visas published in December 2007: "Marriage to Partners from Overseas", and "Marriage Visas: Pre-entry English requirement for spouses". Copies are being placed in the Library of the House.

Our ambitions in preparing reform were twofold: first to strengthen our work to prevent forced marriage; and secondly to ensure that our policy supports our wider ambitions to aid newcomers to integrate rapidly and happily into British life.

A small majority of consultation responses were in favour of increasing the minimum age at which a person may sponsor or be sponsored as a spouse from 18 to 21. There was also support for the proposal that those intending to sponsor a spouse should declare their intention before leaving the UK; for a Code of Practice to provide consistency and a safeguard to protect the vulnerable; and for stronger measures to allow the UKBA to revoke indefinite leave to remain following abandonment of spouse or evidence of abuse of the marriage route to gain settlement. Respondents also suggested to us a range of signs that might signal a vulnerability to a forced marriage but highlighted the need to avoid discrimination.

Although a majority of consultation respondents did not favour a requirement for spouses to demonstrate English before they enter the UK, there was a strong appreciation of the need for newcomers to speak English. A key theme expressed by many was that English is best learnt in the UK where facilities are available and the spouse is immersed in the British way of life.

We are very grateful for the responses to the consultation. We will now consider carefully the recent report of the Home Affairs Select Committee, the summary we publish today, and the views of the Parliamentarians before setting out proposals for reform before the summer.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 20 June 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Correction to Parliamentary Question

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave to parliamentary question 165558 from my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Austin Mitchell) on 18 December 2007 (*Official Report*, columns 1305-06W), was printed incorrectly in the Official Report.

The answer should read:

> A table showing the national level of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy from 1995-96 to 2005-06—the last year for which audited data is available—is as follows:
>
> The table shows the value of the 'bricks and mortar' element of HRA subsidy. Prior to 2004-05, HRA subsidy also contained a rent rebate element. This is omitted from the table to ensure consistency with post 2004-05 data. Prior to 2004-05, surpluses in the 'bricks and mortar' element were applied to the cost of rent rebates for local authorities.

	HRA subsidy (£)
1995-96	-390,050,431
1996-97	-563,028,455
1997-98	-668,307,497
1998-99	-869,992,311
1999-2000	-1,040,869,030
2000-01	-1,123,786,228
2001-02	351,105,009
2002-03	252,059,142
2003-04	191,153,240
2004-05	77,994,764
2005-06	249,427,865

Pre-1995 to 1996 data are available only at disproportionate cost.

As part of the self-financing modelling exercise, some broad forecasts of future HRA subsidy entitlement were generated at a national level. These forecasts were based upon a number of assumptions about factors such as the number of dwellings in the HRA subsidy system, interest rates and rates of inflation. The forecasts are highly sensitive to changes in any of these assumptions. It is based upon the 2007-08 HRA subsidy system.

The forecast subsidies generated were as follows:

	HRA subsidy (£ million)
2008-09	-194
2009-10	-216
2010-11	-303
2011-12	-421
2012-13	-424
2013-14	-376
2014-15	-398
2015-16	-434
2016-17	-476
2017-18	-543
2018-19	-611
2019-20	-680
2020-21	-750
2021-22	-822
2022-23	-894

TRANSPORT

Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I attended the second Transport Council of the Slovenian presidency, in Luxembourg on 13 June.

In road transport, the Council reached a political agreement on each of three legislative proposals: the recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; the regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator; and the recast regulation on common rules for access to the market for coach and bus services. Presidency compromise texts took into account the concerns of several member states, including the UK, in relation to cabotage and the Commission's report in June 2009 on the future inclusion of vehicle registration data on the national registers of operators. The agreed texts of all three proposals are acceptable to the UK.

The Council reached a general approach on a recast Directive on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers. The text was acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted conclusions, acceptable to the UK, on multi-annual contracts for rail infrastructure quality.

The Council reached a general approach on a Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles. We support the principle of using public procurement to help stimulate the market for greener vehicles. The revised text presented to Council, which we were able to accept, is a significant improvement over the original. However, I informed the Council that we regret the lack of a formal impact assessment. We will want, with the Commission, to keep the costs and benefits of the proposed measures under review.

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards an EU/Western Balkans transport treaty. The UK supports the decision and welcomes this opportunity to work towards improvement of the infrastructure of the Western Balkans and better transport links.

The Council adopted decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations on comprehensive air transport agreements with Australia and New Zealand. The UK supports the opening of negotiations with these countries.

Under any other business, I was pleased to be able, jointly with the Irish Minister, Mr Noel Dempsey, to inform the Council of the recently agreed Ireland/UK functional airspace block (FAB). This is the first FAB to be established within the framework of the European Single European Sky legislation. It is a demonstration of the two countries' commitment to delivering the Single European Sky initiative. The FAB is designed to deliver real operational efficiencies irrespective of existing national airspace boundaries.

Petition

Monday 9 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Humble Petition of the residents of Irchester ward and surrounding area.

Sheweth that the village of Irchester is suffering from anti-social behaviour from groups of youths, causing grave concern to the law abiding citizens of Irchester. They recognise the significant efforts of both Parish and Borough Councillors to solve the problem. However they believe the proposed location of the skate park and graffiti board on the village green is wholly inappropriate.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with the Borough of Wellingborough Council, Irchester Parish Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Police to 1) relocate the proposed skate park and graffiti board to a more appropriate location and 2) draw up a plan to eradicate the anti-social behaviour.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 24 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1572.] [P000176]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the proposal for a skate park and graffiti board in Irchester.

The Secretary of State understands that due to process delays and consultation issues the funding deadline for the proposed skate park and graffiti board has not been met and that alternative proposals for a future project are now being considered.

The Secretary of State also understands that action has been taken to address recent occurrences of antisocial behaviour in the Irchester ward and surrounding area resulting in a reduction in the number of incidents notified. The Borough Council of Wellingborough is working together with the Northamptonshire police and the parish council to develop a future project to provide diversionary activity for young people which is agreeable to all parties.

Petitions

Tuesday 10 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Swindon)

The Humble Petition of customers of Guildford Avenue Post Office,

Sheweth

That the Petitioners believe that the branch provides a vital service to the local community.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to ensure that the Guildford Avenue Post Office is retained.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Anne Snelgrove, Official Report, 12 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 382.]* [P000146]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 41 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for West Berkshire and Wiltshire finished on 31 January and POL announced its final decisions on 22 February, which are available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Lawn Post Office branch on Guildford Avenue will close.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Humble Petition of customers of Westcott Place Post Office,

Sheweth

That the Petitioners believe that the branch provides a vital service to the local community

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to ensue that the Westcott Place Post Office is retained.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Anne Snelgrove, Official Report, 12 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 382.]* [P000147]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of a £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 41 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until this July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for West Berkshire and Wiltshire ended on 31 January. POL announced its final decisions on 22 February. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Westcott Place branch will close. Post Office Ltd has published their decision in the Area Plan Booklet for the West Berkshire and Wiltshire area, which is available on their website at:

www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK Foreign Policy (Israel and the Palestinians)

The Petition of constituents of Bristol West,

Declares that despite ongoing human rights violations and the UK government's own export guidelines, the UK has consistently licensed exports to Israel for military equipment, thus providing material support for Israeli aggression, and sending a message of approval for its actions; further declares that the Israelis have declared Gaza a "hostile entity" within a "conflict short of war" and that the collective punishment of a civilian population is prohibited in international law.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to seek to end the siege on the Palestinians and to support Palestinian democracy by stopping arming Israel; reconsidering the UK's policy of refusing to provide aid to the Palestinian Authority following Hamas' election victory in January 2006 and pressing Israel to release all elected Palestinian parliamentarians, as well as other political prisoners; to censure the decision by the Israel cabinet to impose sanctions on supplies of electricity, fuel, and other basic goods and services to the civilian population of Gaza, to cease colluding with this act of State Terrorism against innocent people; and to work towards a just solution based on international law and an end to Israeli occupation.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Stephen Williams, Official Report,* 5 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1882.]

[P000138]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The bedrock of our approach on the MEPP is threefold—first, to be unstinting in our support for the principle of a two-state solution; second, to give every support to all those who are committed to peaceful progress in the region; and third, to support economic and social development across the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

All direct export licence applications, including for arms exports to Israel, are assessed on a case by case basis against the consolidated European Union (EU) and national UK arms export licensing criteria. The UK arms trade with Israel constitutes only 0.1% of Israel's total arms imports. The UK has not sold main equipment such as tanks, aircraft, warships or artillery to Israel since 1997.

Since the outbreak of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) in September 2000, we have taken account of Israeli military tactics in our licensing decisions. The outbreak of the intifada, the continued Israeli incursions in the OPTs and the breach of Israel's assurance that UK-originated equipment would not be used in the OPTs have all been factored into the Government's current export licensing policy.

The UK did not provide aid to the Palestinian Authority whilst Hamas were in government, however we continued to provide funds to the Palestinian people in 2006-7 through the EU's Temporary International Mechanism. The Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) was designed to support Palestinian institutions at a time when we could not give direct aid to the Palestinian Authority. Its successor mechanism, PEGASE, now allows us to give direct budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority. These TIM and PEGASE contributions are used to pay allowances for Palestinian government workers including teachers, doctors, nurses and engineers who have been working to maintain power supplies in Gaza. At the Paris Donors' Conference in December 2007, the UK pledged £243 million over the next three years depending on political progress. This money was pledged in support of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, designed by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad to create a long lasting and viable Palestinian economy.

We continue to call for all the elected members of the Palestinian government detained by Israel to be either released or subject to the due legal process. The Quartet also called for the release of the politicians. All Palestinian prisoners should have access to a fair trial, and we call upon Israel to ensure that any actions are in accordance with international law. We are in close contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who monitor conditions in Israeli prisons. Where appropriate we raise our concerns with the Israeli authorities. The Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has stressed its commitment to honouring its international obligations with regard to the humane and dignified treatment of prisoners.

We are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. We recognise Israel's right to defend itself in a way consistent with international law. But we do not believe that closing the crossings or restricting the supply of goods or electricity is the right response to rocket attacks. The International Development Secretary and I issued joint statements on the situation in Gaza and Sderot on 11 January, 21 January and on 8 February. These statements clearly stated that the UK did not support Israel's decision to close all crossings into Gaza, preventing the delivery of vital humanitarian supplies as well as fuel to the Gaza power station. We recognise Israel's right to defend itself in a way consistent with international law. We deplore the fact that innocent civilians on both sides are suffering. Both Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace and security.

In London on 2 May Foreign Minister Livni and Prime Minister Fayyad met the Foreign Secretary, the International Development Secretary, Quartet members, Arab states and other members of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC). This was the first major international discussion of the Middle East Peace Process in 2008. For the first time humanitarian issues were discussed at the AHLC. At the meeting the Quartet expressed deep concern at Palestinian civilian casualties and called for the opening of Gaza crossings.

We will continue to work for a just solution to the Palestinian question based on the principle of two states living side-by-side in peace and security under international law.

Petition

Monday 16 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Alderman Blaxill School

The Petition of Kevin Starling, Lyn Barton and Nigel Offen - and pupils and former pupils of Alderman Blaxill School, Colchester, together with parents, residents and others,

Declares that the school has a special place in the life of the Shrub End community in accordance with the Government's policies towards promoting sustainable communities; consider that its position as the town's smallest secondary school should be regarded as a positive reason for its retention rather than a reason for closure or merger; stresses in particular the important role the school has with its special relationship with the Colchester Garrison and the teaching of pupils whose parents serve in HM Armed Forces; and point out that the school is the only one in Colchester with a unit specialising in dyslexia.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call on the Government to (a) stop Essex Council from closing or merging Alderman Blaxill School and (b) to ensure that all necessary support, financial and otherwise, is given to enable the school to improve its performance and to continue to be an integral part of the community in the years ahead.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Russell, Official Report,* 2 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 889 .]

[P000166]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

Alderman Blaxill was inspected by Ofsted in May 2007 and placed in special measures as it was not providing an acceptable standard of education. At its most recent monitoring visit in February 2008 Ofsted judged that inadequate progress had been made since being in special measures.

Standards at the school are low, with only 17 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE including English and maths, and action to transform the educational prospects and life chances for pupils at the school is required.

It is the local authority's decision (subject to the normal procedures) whether or not to close the school. It has been consulting on proposals to close Alderman Blaxill and reopen it as an Academy with Thomas Lord Audley School in 2009. The proposed academy would be on the Thomas Lord Audley site but a final decision has not yet been made by the authority.

The Department is providing revenue funding of £200,000 to assist collaborative working between the two schools and to support the transition to the proposed Academy.

Petition

Tuesday 17 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Road Safety (A5 Chequers Hill)

The Petition of those concerned about the intersection of the A5/Chequers hill, Flamstead,

Declares that they live in the vicinity of a dangerous intersection (A5/Chequers Hill, Flamstead), which they are forced to use in order to gain access to Harpenden, St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Luton and Dunstable for reasons of employment, travel, medical care and shopping. While they understand that a traffic light scheme may not rate highly in the Value for Money criteria normally employed when assessing road improvement schemes, but submit that, in this case, the normal criteria should be tempered by the knowledge that it involves the fifth most important trunk road in the country which, at this point, is accommodating traffic that has just left the M1 motorway and, despite a 50 mph speed limit, is travelling at killing speed. Further confusion is caused by vehicles whose direction indicators have not been cancelled after turning left at this point. This has encouraged frustrated motorists to pull out onto the A5 in front of them.

Further declares that the situation is causing distress and fear to local residents by reason of the high number of unreported 'damage only' accidents that occur and the high number of 'near misses'. Traffic congestion of between 17 and 33 vehicles backed up between Chequers Hill and waiting to join the A5 at this point have been noted between 8.00am and 8.30am on many mornings.

Further declares that agreement to treat this junction as a special case and install traffic lights would have a significant and positive effect on the well being of residents of this area and on through traffic on the A5.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to find ways and means of providing a traffic light controlled system at this dangerous junction, as recommended in the A5 Chequers Hill Review Study, carried out on behalf of the Highways Agency (Works Order No 96525), by Carillion URS in July 2007.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mike Penning, Official Report,* 4 June 2008; Vol. 476, c. 891 .]

[P000187]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding this location. The Highways Agency's study looked at several possible ways by which they could improve the safety and congestion problems experienced by drivers accessing the A5 trunk road from Chequers Hill at Flamstead. The study did not recommend any improvement scheme for inclusion in the future programme for funding.

The Agency considered the possibility of installing traffic signals at the junction to make it easier for drivers to access the A5 trunk road from Chequers Hill. When the report was analysed in detail they discovered that they were unable to provide an economic justification to promote a traffic signalisation scheme or any other scheme in the foreseeable future.

There were a number of reasons provided for this. Firstly, it was recognised that there had been a number of personal injury accidents in recent years at and near this junction. Analysis showed that the introduction of traffic signals would only result in a minimal reduction in the number of accidents. The economic analysis showed that the savings from this reduction were outweighed by the increased delays to traffic on the A5, particularly throughout the day, as a result of the introduction of signals.

The Agency also considered the outline costs of the junction redesign, moving statutory undertaker equipment, as well as the increased journey time cost to travellers on the A5 trunk road by the introduction of traffic signals at this location. All these factors contributed to the scheme not rating sufficiently highly to take it further into the forward works programme.

Petitions

Wednesday 18 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

A50 (Staffordshire)

The Petition of Draycott in the Moors Parish Council and the community of Draycott in the Moors, with the communities and Parish Councils of Checkley, Forsbrook, Fulford and Leigh,

Declares that the constant ever increasing noise from the 33,000 plus vehicles using the A50 concrete road daily has become intolerable. Residents cannot have their windows open at night even in mid-summer. They are also unable to sit in their gardens in peace as the noise can drown conversations. These and other side effects put a great strain on the nervous system.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to change the policy of waiting until this surface needs repair, estimated to be in thirty years time, and resurface this road with a quieter surface immediately.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. William Cash, Official Report, 21 May 2008; Vol. 476, c. 370.]* [P000200]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Protecting and enhancing the environment is an increasingly important role for the Highways Agency, and this includes mitigating the impact of traffic noise wherever practicable. Therefore, the Highways Agency will continue to install lower noise surfacing materials on all new roads and when it carries out major maintenance on existing roads. This policy has so far enabled the Agency to install low noise surfacing on 35 per cent. of its network, and aims to resurface an additional 7.5 per cent. of the network up to 2010-11.

Where noise is a particular problem for local communities, the Agency also investigates the feasibility of noise mitigation measures to provide practical and cost-effective solutions. Sixty sites have benefitted from these measures in the last nine years, with a further seven sites expected to be treated by 2010-11.

The Highways Agency is also working closely with DEFRA to implement the requirements of the EU Environmental Noise Directive, as transposed into UK legislation by the Environmental Noise Regulations (2006). This has already resulted in noise maps being produced for the entire strategic road network in England, and a road noise action plan is to be put in place later in this financial year. The action plan is expected to identify practical cost-effective and sustainable solutions to reduce road noise, and is due to be finalised in early 2009. The Highways Agency is also developing a forward strategy for noise mitigation, which will include implementation of a new system for identifying and prioritising problem sites.

The Government has a duty to deliver value for money within the budgets that are available. The Highways Agency's road maintenance budget is optimised to ensure that the network is kept in a safe and serviceable condition. Bringing forward the resurfacing of concrete roads ahead of need to reduce noise would mean that essential maintenance work would have to be put back. This would have a detrimental impact on the condition of the strategic road network with subsequent cost implication on maintenance in the longer term. It would also be inconsistent with our wider aims to operate a sustainable transport system, by optimising the use of raw materials and energy required for road construction and maintenance.

Therefore, while I am very sympathetic to the concerns of your constituents I cannot at this time agree to resurfacing the A50 ahead of maintenance need, which is not anticipated until at least 2020.

Southend Driving Test Centre

The Petition of the residents of Southend.

Declares that the residents of Southend strongly oppose the closure of Southend Driving Test Centre, which would mean that local residents would have to travel an unreasonable distance to take their driving tests.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Secretary of State for Transport to do all within her power to prevent the closure of Southend Driving Test Centre and ensure that a full and transparent public consultation is conducted should a closure be proposed in the future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. —*[Presented by James Duddridge, Official Report,* 3 June 2008; Vol. 476, c 738 .] [P000195]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Driving Standards Agency has a statutory responsibility for setting standards for theory and practical driving tests and assessing the standard of driving at the practical driving test.

Southend-on-Sea Driving Test Centre is located within the offices of the Department for Work and Pensions on Prittlewell Chase. This is a 1960s building that does not offer the modern facilities that the DSA tries to provide for customers and staff wherever possible.

A new national network of Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs) is being developed to facilitate the implementation of European Commission Directive 2000/56/EC which introduced more demanding manoeuvres for practical motorcycling tests, and meets our needs for safer driving.

DSA has considered how best to both meet the needs of driving test candidates in the Southend area and comply with the new European test requirements. The Agency is proposing to move driver and rider testing in the area to a new MPTC facility at Basildon, some 10 miles away. The relocation of the Southend facility to the Basildon MPTC would maximise the utilisation of the facility and ensure there is no wasteful over provision of facilities in the area.

DSA has service standards that need to be met where possible. In areas with a population density equal to or more than 1,250 persons per square kilometre they state that most candidates should not have to travel more than 7 miles to a driving test centre. The proposed co-location of Southend driving test centre to Basildon would exceed this criterion and in accordance with the DSA Code of Practice on Written Consultations a public consultation commenced on 13 February and closed on 9 May 2008.

DSA is currently reviewing responses to the consultation and they will be carefully considered before a final decision is made.

Work is already underway at the Basildon site and, irrespective of the final decision about the closure of Southend driving test centre, motorcycle testing will move to Basildon.

Petitions

Thursday 19 June 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Essex)

The Petition of residents of Romford and surrounding areas,

Declares the Petitioners' belief that the threatened closure of the much valued Gobions Post Office in Collier Row, Romford will have a detrimental effect on the lives of the people who live in Havering-atte-Bower, Chase Cross and Collier Row, if it is closed.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reverse the policy of closing sub Post Offices, notably Gobions Post Office, which provide local communities with their only source of accessing vital services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Rosindell, Official Report,* 29 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 275 .] [P000183]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London has finished and POL has published its final decisions in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for London which is available on their website at:

www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that Gobions Post Office is to close.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Essex)

The Petition of residents of Hornchurch and the surrounding areas,

Declares the Petitioners' belief that the threatened closure of the much valued Hylands Post Office in Hornchurch will have a detrimental effect on the lives of the people who live in Hornchurch and Hylands if it is closed.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reverse the policy of closing sub Post Offices, notably Hylands Post Office, which provide local communities with their only source of accessing vital services.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Rosindell, Official Report,* 29 April 2008; Vol. 475, c. 275 .] [P000182]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network, allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country, and why it has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has invested £2 billion in the post office network since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office, as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network, the Government announced its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of an annual £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to this time. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services (such as pubs, village halls, churches and mobile post offices), will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. POL announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for London has finished and POL has published its final decisions in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for London, which is available on their website at:

www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme, POL have confirmed that the Hylands Post Office is to close.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch. When drawing up its implementation plans, POL takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government, as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography (rivers, mountains etc). POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation, while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after the public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review, with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. At this stage the Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Policing

The Petition of Johnno Hills, and British citizens,

Declares that there is great dissatisfaction with target driven policing methods and calls on the Government to drop target driven policing which is undermining public trust and bringing the police into disrepute; and to cut excessive government bureaucracy which leaves our streets devoid of regularly visible police presence so that decent, law abiding citizens are afraid to walk the streets of their own country for fear of becoming crime victims.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons implore the Government to cut excessive bureaucracy and ensure police officers spend more time on the streets and to make the role of the PCSOs one which will support the return of regular police officers

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report*, 22 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1285 .]

[P000173]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government's crime strategy aims to free up the police so that they are able to focus on serious crimes and local priorities. There are now fewer central targets and even greater flexibility for those at the front line to respond to issues important to the community. Bringing criminals to justice is a core responsibility for the police, but we do not expect officers to pursue detection numbers for numbers' sake if that means chasing minor misdemeanours at the expense of serious offenders. For, example, the national detection rate is not a target for 2008/09.

New Government targets announced in October 2007 give much more prominence to tackling serious crime. The latest performance indicators for the police include measures of the rate of offences brought to justice for serious violent crime, serious sexual offences and serious acquisitive crime. We are pleased to see forces are reflecting these priorities in their new performance plans.

Bureaucracy in the police service is necessary to ensure a fair process for victims, witnesses and alleged offenders and for the collection and collation of evidence to secure convictions. Paperwork is designed locally to ensure that each force can successfully operate processes for recording of crime and other incidents, the prosecution of offenders, the detention of suspects, engagement with the public and the servicing of internal business around resources and HR.

The Government is committed to tackling the root causes of unnecessary bureaucracy. To that end, Sir Ronnie Flanagan was commissioned and reported on this in his review of policing and whose final report was published with a statement in the House on 7 February. He identified risk aversion - in the police service, government and society—as the root cause. This issue and the specific remedies he proposed in stop and account, recording of data, use of IT (including the expanded use of personal digital assistants with extra funding) are being taken forward. The Government will say more on this in its Green Paper on policing.

JUSTICE

Employment and Human Rights

The Petition of Mr Pinakin Pandya,

Declares that his rights under s.54 (1), and s.64 (1) (ii) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 not to be unfairly dismissed until the attainment of the State's retirement age, have been breached. Further declares that his rights under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Employment Rights Act 1996, the Race Relations Act 1976, the Employment Tribunal Practice and Rules and the Court of Appeal's Civil Procedure Rules, House of Lords Rules, and European Court of Human Rights Rules, have been denied. Further declares that his rights under articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been breached by the UK, the European Court of Human Rights, and the United Nations, culminating in failure of the judicial system.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review the Human Rights Act insofar as it relates to employment tribunals and legislation.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—[*Official Report*, 6 February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 35P .] [P000121]

Observations from the Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice:

I am in receipt of the petition dated 6 February 2008 of Mr Pinakin Pandya, in which he asserts that he has suffered the breach of many of his legal rights and human rights as a result of the operation of the employment tribunal decision.

The Government is satisfied that employment legislation, including provisions governing the procedure of employment tribunals, is compliant with our human rights obligations. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, it is unlawful for a public authority to act incompatibly with a Convention right. Under section 6(3) of the Act, a "public authority" includes any court or tribunal. If a party to a case believes that its procedure or outcome breaches their Convention rights, they should ordinarily raise this by taking advantage of the means to them to challenge the decision (whether by way of review or appeal).

The Government of course opposes the breach of individuals' employment rights. Where it has not proved possible for the parties otherwise to resolve matters, employment tribunals are the first stage in the legal process for enforcing most statutory employment rights. Every case that proceeds through the system is determined on its merits. As employment tribunals are independent judicial bodies, the Government cannot comment on or intervene in the tribunals' handling of individual cases, or any decisions they make.

Where an individual wishes to pursue his case further, he has two options that should be notified to him when he receives the decision. These are to apply for a review of the Employment Judge's decision, or to appeal (on a point of law only) to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT).

Applications for review should be made within 14 days of the decision being sent to the parties, although the tribunal has discretion to extend this time limit. Reviews are intended to correct very specific errors or mishaps in the conduct of a tribunal hearing, or to deal with new evidence that was genuinely not available at the time of the original hearing. A party can make more than one application for review, although a second application, when a first has been properly refused, is unlikely to succeed unless there are exceptional circumstances.

An appeal should be made within 42 days of the date on which written reasons for the decision or order of the tribunal was sent to the party, or, in a case where no written reasons are required, within 42 days of the date on which the written notification of the tribunal's decision was sent, although the EAT has discretion to extend the time limit.

Appeals from the EAT in England and Wales go to the Court of Appeal and, in Scotland, to the Court of Session. From the Court of Appeal, appeals go to the House of Lords.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 June 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the continued suspension from the Afghan parliament of Malalai Joya; and if he will make a statement. [208251]

Dr. Howells: In May 2007 Malalai Joya was suspended for three years (until the end of the legislative term) by her peers in the Afghan parliament for contravening Article 70 of the Afghan parliament's rules of procedure. Article 70 states that members of parliament who insult others are subject to disciplinary action. Action was taken against Ms Joya after a media interview in which she said that the Afghan parliament was worse than a 'stable or zoo'. Ms Joya has the right to challenge the decision and has indicated her intention to do so. Together with EU partners, we regularly raise the issue of freedom of expression in Afghanistan and look forward to Ms Joya and the Afghan parliament resolving this internal parliamentary issue.

A member of our embassy staff met with Malalai Joya on 1 May 2008. Ms Joya gave an account of her suspension by the Afghan parliament and discussed Afghan politics.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he or his Department has had with Wali Karzai; and what his role is in the Afghan Government. [208800]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 5 June 2008]*: Our officials last met with Ahmad Wali Karzai on 21 November 2007. The meeting was to discuss routine Afghan political issues. Ahmad Wali Karzai was elected head of the Kandahar Provincial Council in 2005 and is also President Karzai's special adviser to the South.

Burma: Democracy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the British Ambassador to Thailand has had with representatives of Burma's democracy movement. [208465]

Meg Munn: Our ambassador in Bangkok has held discussions with Burmese political organisations and other civil society representatives six times in 2008. We continue to maintain a dialogue with groups campaigning for democracy in Burma, in the UK and in the region.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what meetings his Department's officials held with Karen National Union General Secretary Padoh Mahn Sha in the 12 months before he was assassinated in February 2008; [208467]

(2) what reports he has received on the alleged involvement of Col Htin Maung and Pastor Timothy Laklem of the KNU Peace Council in the assassination of Padoh Mahn Sha, General Secretary of the Karen National Union, Burma. [208468]

Meg Munn: To date, we have received no conclusive reports on which person or parties were involved in the assassination of Pado Mahn Sha on 14 February 2008. The case is still under investigation by the Thai police. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials had no meeting with Pado Mahn Sha in the 12 months prior to his assassination. I sent a message of condolence to his daughter, Zoya Phan.

Burma: Storms

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government issued warnings about Cyclone Nargis to British residents in Burma; and whether such warnings were also given to the regime ruling Burma. [208462]

Meg Munn: Based on data from the Meteorological Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Burma was updated on 30 April to inform British nationals that tropical Cyclone Nargis was forecast to make landfall on the Burmese coast between 2-3 May. This advice was again updated on 1 May to inform that the cyclone would make landfall on 2 May on the central Burmese coast. On 1 May, our embassy in Rangoon sent a notice to all registered British nationals and other nationals to whom we provide consular assistance. The notice warned of the cyclone and included links to websites with information on extreme weather.

The Burmese Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has said that it tracked the storm from 29 April 2008 and, in doing so, claims to have been in contact with Indian, Thai, UK and US meteorological authorities and agencies. The Burmese Government said that on 1 May and 2 May, local television and radio warned of the storm and specifically that the wind could be strong and destructive.

Enrichment Bond

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the National Security Strategy, Cm 7291, what definition he uses of enrichment bond; and if he will make a statement. [208207]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports efforts to develop a viable regime of nuclear fuel assurances under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that would support states' rights to safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology under Article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Enrichment Bond is one such proposal. It would involve an agreement between supplier state government or governments, the recipient state and the IAEA, in which the supplier government or governments would guarantee that, subject to compliance with international law and to meeting non-proliferation commitments to be assessed by the IAEA, national enrichment providers will not be prevented from supplying the recipient state with uranium enrichment services in the event that the guarantee is invoked.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on nuclear disarmament, what progress has been made by the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston in taking forward proposals to develop a disarmament laboratory. [208320]

Dr. Howells: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is continuing to undertake research into the technical aspects of verifying multilateral nuclear disarmament. This forms part of a series of wider activities announced in June 2007 by my right hon. Friend, the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) to make the UK a 'Disarmament Laboratory'.

AWE's research so far, partly in partnership with Norway and the non-governmental organisation, Verification Education, Research and Information Centre, was presented to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in Geneva in May. Although this research is expected to take a number of years, we have made a good start. For example, we are looking forward to undertaking 'managed access' simulation to a nuclear facility in Norway within the year.

In addition to the work being undertaken by AWE, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne) announced in February our offer to host a technical conference of scientists from the P5 nuclear laboratories to discuss the issues surrounding the verification of nuclear disarmament. Also, the UK is supporting a study by the International Institute of Strategic Studies into the political and technical requirements for a world free from nuclear weapons which will be published in September.

Saudi Arabia: Embassies

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff work at the British consulate in Riyadh; and how many of those deal with complaints from British citizens about Hajj pilgrimages. [208290]

Meg Munn: The consular section of our embassy in Riyadh comprises six full time members of staff. Any complaints from British citizens about Hajj pilgrimages are passed to our consul for investigation and reply.

Saudi Arabia: Festivals and Special Occasions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from the British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on the Hajj pilgrimage. [208287]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Riyadh sent a report to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary following the conclusion of the 2007 Hajj pilgrimage.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia to discuss the Hajj pilgrimage; and when he last discussed the case of Mr. Rafiq Gorji with the ambassador. [208288]

Dr. Howells: Our ambassador in Riyadh briefed my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on general issues around the Hajj during his visit to Saudi Arabia in April 2008.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and our ambassador in Riyadh have not discussed the case of Mr. Rafiq Gorji. Consular officials in Saudi Arabia provided Mr. Gorji with all appropriate consular assistance following the coach crash in which he lost his wife during the December 2006 Hajj.

USA: Entry Clearances

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he and other Ministers in his Department have had with US Administration representatives on the issuing of US visas to people with HIV/AIDS; and if he will make a statement. [208348]

Dr. Howells: While the UK generally regards a third country's immigration policy as solely a domestic matter for the country involved, officials have previously raised the subject of US entry clearance procedures for individuals with HIV/AIDS with both the US State Department and the US embassy in London and will continue to do so in the future. I will also look for an early opportunity to raise this matter with the US authorities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Asian Tribal Ministries

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides funding to Asian Tribal Ministries operations in Burma; and whether officials from his Department have met staff or volunteers from Asian Tribal Ministries. [208473]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not provide funding for Asian Tribal Ministries operations and has no plans to do so. DFID officials have met representatives from a very broad range of Thailand based Burmese organisations, including Asian Tribal Ministries.

Burma: Internally Displaced Persons

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to Burmese people displaced by the military regime. [207662]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £770,000 to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) which provides food and other support to Burmese refugees in Thailand and to displaced people inside Burma. We are discussing DFID's contribution for 2008-09 with TBBC and Christian Aid, through which this funding is channelled. DFID also provides support from within Burma to people living in and near conflict and ceasefire areas in the border regions, many of whom have been displaced. In all, about 20 per cent. of DFID's regular programme of assistance for Burma (which is doubling from £9 million in 2007-09 to £18 million in 2010-11) benefits people in areas affected by conflict. The £17 million which DFID has pledged so far in emergency assistance following Cyclone Nargis is additional to the regular programme.

Burma: International Red Cross

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to persuade the Burmese junta to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross into areas of conflict in Eastern Burma. [208466]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In November 2006 the UK Government made two ministerial statements strongly condemning the Burmese Government's decision to order the closure of the field offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. These statements were transmitted to the Burmese Ministers of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Health, Labour, and National Economic Planning and Development. The Department for International Development (DFID) Office and British embassy in Rangoon continue to press the Burmese authorities to reverse their decision.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Three Diseases Fund for Burma. [208469]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) closely monitors the performance of the Three Diseases Fund and participated in the fund's first annual review meeting on 1-2 April 2008. This meeting reviewed the fund's overall performance and identified its achievements, areas where strengthening is required, and policy and programme priorities for the next year. The meeting was attended by 156 representatives of donors, United Nations agencies, international and local non-governmental organisations, and the Burmese Ministry of Health.

Further details of the fund board's conclusions and recommendations from the meeting are set out in an aide-mémoire which is available on the Three Diseases Fund website:

www.3dfund.org.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations were the top 10 recipients of UK aid to Burma in 2007-08; and how much each received. [208470]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The top 10 recipients of UK aid to Burma in 2007-08 were:

	£
The Three Diseases Fund	3,900,000
UNICEF Multi-donor education fund	1,000,000
Save the Children Fund—Early Learning Opportunities Transition Initiative	899,922
United Nations Development Programme—Human Development Initiative	755,435
The Thailand Burma Border Consortium	670,662
Health Unlimited, Primary Health Care	425,897
United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator's Multi-donor Stakeholder Fund	400,000
World Food Programme, Food Security	250,000
Pyoe Pin	124,498
HOPE International	118,446

A further £100,000 was allocated to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium during the financial year, and has been disbursed, but will be accounted for in 2008-09.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's aid budgets for Burma, excluding cyclone funding, are for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11? [208471]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's planned expenditure on Burma, excluding cyclone funding, is:

	£ million
2008-09	12
2009-10	15
2010-11	18

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much British aid has reached internally displaced people in Karen state, Burma; and how many people have received such aid. [208472]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £400,000 for assistance to displaced people through community-based organisations inside Burma. This assistance reached around 106,000 displaced people, mostly in Karen communities, living near Burma's border with Thailand.

In 2007, DFID agreed that its funding to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) could be used to support cross-border relief programmes for displaced people inside Burma as well as Burmese refugees in Thailand. TBBC estimates that its cross-border support reached 80,420 people in 2007. DFID has agreed to provide £1 million to TBBC for 2008-09, an increase of 30 per cent. over our total allocation for 2007-08.

Other DFID programmes in education, health and livelihoods reach areas where displaced people live, including Karen communities. We do not, however, have specific figures on how much of this assistance is provided to displaced people.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the regime in Burma is allowing free and unrestricted access for aid workers in the Irrawaddy delta. [208474]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since the United Nations-ASEAN Conference in Rangoon on 25 May there has been some improvement in access. The Myanmar Red Cross has been able to scale up its operation in the Delta. Five international medical teams from countries in the region are now providing support and a DFID team travelled to the Irrawaddy Delta on 29 May.

However, significant concerns remain. Restrictions have been placed on dates of travel, and requirements have been made that government liaison officers accompany relief staff. There are still too few relief workers based in the Delta.

The Government's priority has been, and remains, to ensure that relief reaches those who need it most. Together with the UN, ASEAN and NGOs we are continuing to monitor the situation very closely.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, on the Thai-Burma border, in each of the last three years. [209522]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently approved funding of £100,000 for the Mae Tao Clinic for 2008-09. This money will be used for medicines, supplies and equipment critical for the clinic's medical work. This is the first DFID grant direct to the clinic.

The Mae Tao Clinic has also received grants from the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), to which DFID contributes.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether charities responding to the cyclone in Burma are required to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the regime in order to receive funding. [209521]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not limit its funding for cyclone response to charities that have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the regime. In the emergency response phase, we have given priority to international NGOs with existing capacity on the ground, particularly in areas worst affected by the cyclone, because experience has shown that these have been able to respond faster. However, we have also funded NGOs without MOUs where they have clear value to add.

Congo Basin Forest Fund

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects will be funded by the Congo Basin Forest Fund which will reduce emissions from deforestation. [209698]

Mr. Thomas: The Congo Basin Forest Fund will be launched on 17 June 2008. Governments, civil society and private sector organisations will be eligible to apply for funding once it has been launched. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria: innovation, slowing deforestation, reducing poverty and conformance with the COMIFAC (Central Africa Commission for Forestry) Convergence Plan.

In addition to the initial finance of £50 million contribution to the CBFF, the UK has allocated up to £8 million to fund start-up activities. We are currently considering options for funding, following scoping visits to the region. These will be assessed against the CBFF funding criteria.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208376]

Gillian Merron: Senior civil servants in the Department for International Development (DFID) have not been allocated any performance bonuses in recognition of their performance during the 2007-08 appraisal year. Decisions on bonuses will be made following receipt of the 2008 report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the environmental transformation fund will be allocated to steps aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries; and of this how much will be by *(a)* grants, *(b)* loans and *(c)* via the World Bank multi-donor fund. [209697]

Mr. Thomas: The final allocations of the environmental transformation fund - international window (ETF-IW) have yet to be decided. Decisions about resource allocations (including for forestry) will be agreed by relevant ministers through an HMG Governance Board (which includes DEFRA, DFID and HMT).

To date, £50 million of the ETF-IW has been committed to the Congo Basin Fund. We also expect the UK's £15 million contribution to the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund to be funded by the ETF-IW. This would all be in the form of grants, made through the World Bank administered multi-donor Climate Investment Funds.

We are also supporting the establishment of a wider programme on forestry as part of these funds. This is still in the early stages of development, but progress on the design will be made towards the end of this year.

Developing Countries: Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the World Bank on raising its level of support for renewable energy projects in the developing world. [205752]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank Group in 2004 announced it would increase financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency by an average of at least 20 per cent. a year between 2005 and 2009. This target has been exceeded, with commitments on renewable energy, excluding large hydropower, increasing from $192 million in 2004 to $421 million in 2007.

In 2007, we asked the World Bank to increase its level of ambition. We have called for them to further develop and promote transitions to low carbon energy supplies, including by increased support for affordable, efficient and renewable energy. The World Bank's Clean Energy Investment Framework aims to expand access to modern energy and help countries take up low-carbon solutions to their energy needs. Increasing the use of renewable energy is part of these objectives and we will continue to encourage the World Bank to do more. We are supporting the World Bank in the implementation of the framework.

International Labour Organisation: Finance

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to the International Labour Organisation to support its work on reducing labour exploitation of children and women in the last 12 months. [208335]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £6.75 million to support the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) core programmes on social protection, forced labour, cooperatives and migration. The ILO has an action plan which aims to ensure that the interests of children and women are at the forefront of all their work. DFID is also providing £465,000 to help the ILO improve monitoring and evaluation of its work for children and women. This work began in January 2008.

Thailand Burma Border Consortium

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Government have agreed to increase funding for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium in 2008-09. [208475]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has approved a grant of £1 million for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) for 2008-09. This funding is being channelled through Christian Aid. It represents a 30 per cent. increase over last year's total allocation of £770,000. This is in response to the rapid rise in the cost of rice this year, as well as last year's decision by DFID to allow TBBC to use our money for cross-border support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) inside Burma as well as for refugees in Thailand.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much was pledged at the Yemen donor's conference held in 2006 in London; and how much funding has been collected from those that pledged money at the conference; [208292]

(2) how many of the countries that pledged aid at the Yemen donor's conference held in 2006 in London have given all of the aid pledged; [208298]

(3) what steps the Government has taken to encourage countries and organisations that pledged aid to Yemen at the 2006 donor conference in London to provide it. [208295]

Mr. Malik: $4.746 billion was pledged at the Yemen Consultative Group (CG) meeting in 2006 of which $2.786 billion was in grant aid and $1960 million was in soft lending. Since then additional pledges have come in from France, Spain, the USA, Denmark and the Arab Fund taking combined 'CG pledges' to $5.312 billion.

The Government of Yemen (GoY) has not published overall donor disbursement figures for the period since the Yemen CG meeting. The most complete and recent data shows donor disbursements of $292.18 million to Yemen for calendar year 2007. This does not cover all those donors who made pledges at the CG meeting notably Arab donors who made significant pledges. All donor funds pledged were multi-annual and spread over several years so we would not expect full disbursement at this stage.

The UK continues to support GoY efforts to encourage donors to disburse their pledges against agreed timetables through our ongoing engagement in GoY-donor dialogue, for example, the twice yearly 'Consultative Group Stocktake Meetings'. The UK has played a particular role in encouraging greater dialogue between Arab donors and OECD donors to promote all donors to deliver their CG pledge commitments. We are supporting the Aid Harmonisation and Alignment (AHA) Unit within the Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation which leads on Consultative Group pledge follow-up within its broader mandate to promote greater aid effectiveness in Yemen.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £117 million pledged by the Government in 2006 over a period of four years has been provided to Yemen. [208293]

Mr. Malik: To date the UK Government have provided bilateral aid totalling £11.99 million of the £117 million pledged in the 2006 donor conference. The balance will be provided over the three financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what types of aid were provided by the Government to Yemen in *(a)* the last year and *(b)* the last 10 years. [208294]

Mr. Malik: We are currently unable to provide figures for UK aid types provided to Yemen in 2007-08, as these figures have not yet been published.

Over the last 10 years the UK Government has provided the following aid types:

	£
Technical co-operation	
1997-98	293,333
1998-99	511,224
1999-2000	565,331
2000-01	251,359
2001-02	6,263
2002-03	40,487
2003-04	46,490
2004-05	770,358
2005-06	747,165
2006-07	874,982
Total from 1997-98—2006-07	3,880,792
Other financial aid	
1997-98	358,164
1998-99	302,330
1999-2000	309,320
2000-01	1,515,665
2001-02	384,165
2002-03	3,297,654
2003-04	106,750
2004-05	104,123
2005-06	90,350
2006-07	82,670
Total from 1997-98—2006-07	10,779,069
Other bilateral aid	
1997-98	397,627
1998-99	234,845
1999-2000	611,744
2000-01	963,740
2001-02	2,191,733
2002-03	2,102,922
2003-04	3,721,092
2004-05	4,430,196
2005-06	10,658,2[illegible]8
2006-07	7,441,013
Total from 1997-98—2006-07	31,991,009
Humanitarian assistance	
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	—
2000-01	—
2001-02	—
2002-03	—
2003-04	—
2004-05	6,708
2005-06	4,285
2006-07	—
Total from 1997-98—2006-07	10,993
Imputed multilateral share	
1997-98	4,884
1998-99	4,531
1999-2000	1,260
2000-01	16,432
2001-02	4,316
2002-03	7,628
2003-04	2,342
2004-05	4,526
2005-06	5,026
2006-07	6,771
Total from 1997-98—2006-07	57,716

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the increase in aid provided by the UK to Yemen has been since the 2006 Yemen donor's conference in London. [208297]

Mr. Malik: In 2006-07 the aid programme to Yemen was £8.31 million. Following the 2006 donor conference where we pledged £117 million over four years, the aid programme was increased to £11.99 million in 2007-08 and will continue to rise in the coming three years to meet our total commitment.

Yemen: Poverty

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of Yemen's ability to fulfil its poverty targets for 2008. [208296]

Mr. Malik: The Government of Yemen's third Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction (SEDPPR) 2006 to 2010 aims to reduce poverty rates to 19.5 per cent. by 2010. However it contains no specific targets for 2008. A mid point review of the SEDPPR is due to be completed by September 2008, and will show whether Yemen is on track to meet its 2010 targets.

The UK helped to fund a poverty assessment based on a household budget survey which was undertaken in 2005-06 by the Government of Yemen, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme—UNDP. This assessment demonstrated that poverty rates have declined from 40.1 per cent. in 1998 to 34.8 per cent. in 2005. However recent World Bank figures estimate that these gains may have been fully reversed due to inflation and high food prices.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 307W, on departmental official hospitality, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each event held by his Department in 2007-08. [208119]

David Cairns: The nine events, objectives and expenditure are detailed in the following table.

Scotland Office Events 2007-08	*Objective*	*Cost (£)*
Trooping the Colour	Secretary of State's reception for Scottish MPs, Peers and others on the occasion of Her Majesty's official birthday parade	4,605.45
Highland Year of Culture	To celebrate and promote highland culture	2,465.80
Edinburgh Festival Reception	To celebrate Edinburgh's summer festivals	452.74
Identities: Tales of the United Kingdom, Scottish Story Telling Centre	Part of the celebrations for the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Union. This included sponsorship of the Storylab initiative based in Edinburgh. The expenditure included assistance with design, branding, printing, distribution and web design / support.	11,900.00
English Speaking Union debate	Part of the celebrations for the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Union. This was a school debate on the Treaty of Union and the reception that followed.	2,512.85
Polish Cultural Reception	To celebrate the role of the Polish community in Scotland	149.00
Moderator's Lunch	Annual lunch held in honour of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland	4,030.31
Thoresen Review Reception	Otto Thoresen presented key points from the Thoresen Review of Generic Financial Advice	773.05
Child Poverty roundtable	Round table discussion and reception to discuss child poverty in Scotland and to raise awareness among stakeholders of the respective roles of the UK Government and the Scottish Executive in relation to poverty	1,830.75

These events continue to be popular with MPs of all parties with relevant Scottish constituencies taking the opportunity to engage with important stakeholders and groups in Scotland.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208148]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has no in-house canteen or other catering facilities so therefore does not routinely generate food waste.

WALES

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 953W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are offered at his departmental meetings and engagements. [209021]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In line with my answer given on 5 February 2008, my Department has offered Fairtrade tea and coffee at departmental meetings and engagements.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what sports facilities are due to be constructed on the Olympic Park; what sports each will host during the 2012 Olympic Games; who the contractor and what the budget is for each; and what progress has been made on construction of each. [209704]

Tessa Jowell: There will be five permanent venues in the Olympic Park: the Olympic Stadium, Aquatics Centre, Handball Arena, the VeloPark and Eton Manor.

The Olympic Stadium is being constructed by Team McAlpine, a consortium made up of Sir Robert McAlpine, HOK Sport and Buro Happold, and the budget—as announced in October 2007—remains at the contract price £496 million. This venue will host all Olympic and Paralympic track and field events as well as being the finish point for the Marathon and the start and finish points for the Racewalk. Construction of the Olympic Stadium commenced in May 2008.

The Aquatics Centre is being constructed by UK firm Balfour Beatty and the budget, as announced in April, is £242 million. The venue will host Olympic swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, modern pentathlon swimming events and Paralympic swimming events. Planning permission has been granted for the Aquatics Centre. Balfour Beatty took possession of the site in June 2008 and construction work is on track to commence in the next two months.

The Handball Arena will host handball events, as well as modern pentathlon fencing during the Olympic Games and goalball events during the Paralympic Games. The budget for the Handball Arena is in line with the overall venues budget already announced but further budget details cannot be released as sensitive commercial negotiations continue. The Olympic Delivery Authority expects to appoint a contractor for the Handball Arena in early 2009, ready for construction to start in the summer of 2009.

The Eton Manor site will host the Paralympic archery and wheelchair tennis events programme and provide athletes training facilities during the Games. As a contractor is yet to be appointed, budget details for this venue cannot yet be released but it remains within the budget for venues already announced. Stanton Williams were awarded the contract to design the venue in April 2008 and construction is due to begin in early 2010.

The VeloPark, of which the Velodrome is the main component, will host the Olympic and Paralympic indoor track cycling events and the adjacent BMX circuit will host the BMX events. The budget for the VeloPark is £80 million. A consortium made up of Hopkins Architects, Expedition Engineering, BDSP and Grant Associates has been chosen to design the VeloPark and construction is due to begin in 2009. The contract for the Velodrome was awarded to ISG InteriorExterior in May 2008.

A number of sports, including basketball, waterpolo, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby, will take place in temporary venues on the Olympic Park. The budgets for these facilities are included in the venues budget as announced at the end of 2007 and building contractors have yet to be appointed.

LOCOG '-London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games-' have responsibility for the construction of a temporary hockey centre on the Olympic Park that will host hockey and paralympic football competitions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessors and *(c)* other Ministers from his Department last met a representative from each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies. [207382]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The information requested could be answered only at disproportionate cost. However, within a fortnight of my appointment as Secretary of State, I, together with my ministerial team hosted a breakfast seminar to which representatives from all of the Department's non-departmental public bodies were invited. In addition, since I have been Secretary of State, Ministers from this Department have met with representatives from the majority of our non-departmental public bodies and hope to meet with the remainder in the near future.

English Language: Hospitality Industry

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the hospitality industry on minimum standards of spoken English among its employees. [208531]

Margaret Hodge: My Department is working with People 1st, the Sector Skills Council, and the British Hospitality Association to improve the skills and qualifications levels of managers, chefs and those involved in customer service through the implementation of the National Skills Strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism. This includes looking at English language requirements where necessary to improve communication and customer service skills. We are also examining the barriers to training, including qualifications reform. I chair the Monitoring and Implementation (M&I) Group for this strategy, and the hospitality industry is represented on that body. Our work will be informed by research undertaken by People 1st into English language requirements which will be completed later this year.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the productivity rate in the tourism industry was in each year since 2002. [208799]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* Productivity data for the tourism and leisure industry is estimated from the Annual Business Inquiry, run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The table shows the annual percentage productivity changes in the tourism and leisure industry from 2002 onwards.

Annual percentage productivity changes 2002-06

Tourism and Leisure Industry	*Percentage*
2002	3.3
2003	-0.1
2004	1.9
2005	0.4
2006[1]	3.1

[1] 2006 figures are provisional with the final figures being published in June 2008.

Source:

Department for Culture, Media and Sport using data from the Annual Business Inquiry (ONS).

For full details on how the PSA '-public service agreement-' is measured, see the technical note 2005 to 2008 PSA Technical note (Revised) on the DCMS website

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3587.aspx.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Early-Day Motions: Internet

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House for what reasons it is not possible for hon. Members to e-table early-day motions. [209346]

Helen Goodman: This matter was considered by the Procedure Committee in its first report of session 2006-07 (HC 513) on public petitions and early day motions (paragraphs 93-96). Given the formal nature of an early-day motion and concerns about authentication of electronic tabling, the Committee considered that Members were not unduly constrained by present procedures for tabling and signing EDMs in this respect. They concluded that they could not recommend the introduction of e-tabling for EDMs. The House endorsed this approach in its debate on the Committee's Report on 25 October 2007.

Intelligence and Security Committee: Public Appointments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Leader of the House if she will hold discussions with the Prime Minister to bring forward proposals to ensure that future appointments to the Intelligence and Security Committee are decided by the House. [208998]

Helen Goodman: I have nothing further to add to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 88W, in which he stated that the Governance of Britain White Paper (cm 7342) includes proposals to enable Parliament to play a fuller role in the appointment of members to the Intelligence and Security Committee.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Advisory Services

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his

Department has allocated to the Energy Saving Trust to fund activities as part of the Act on CO_2 advice line. [208773]

Mr. Woolas: Government will be providing over £100 million in the next three years to the Energy Saving Trust to develop a proactive green homes service, based on the Act on CO_2 advice line and a regional network of one stop shops. In this year alone, DEFRA is providing the Energy Saving Trust with £35.2 million, £24.5 million of which will be specifically for the Act on CO_2 advice line and the roll out of the regional advice centres.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what amount of verified emissions of carbon dioxide in tonnes there was from EU Emissions Trading Scheme installations in each sector in the UK in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [209480]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The following table gives details of the sector level results against allocations for the UK in each of the last three years. We will provide analysis of the results in more depth and information on the results across the EU. Further information on EU ETS results can be found at the European Environment Agency website using their Community Independent Transaction Log (CITL) viewer.

DEFRA cautions against a simplistic analysis of this table.

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
Sector	*Allocation*	*Emissions*	*Allocation*	*Emissions*	*Allocation*	*Emissions*
Power stations	135.7	172.2	135.6	181.5	136.0	177.9
Iron and steel	21.3	18.8	23.3	20.2	23.4	20.8
Refineries	19.6	18.1	19.6	17.7	19.6	17.8
Offshore	12.1	10.8	12.4	10.2	18.9	14.8
Chemicals	8.2	6.7	8.1	6.4	8.3	6.2
Cement	5.9	5.1	5.7	5.1	9.1	8.0
Non-ferrous metals	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7
Services	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.9
Other oil and gas	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.4	2.0	1.2
Food, drink and tobacco	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.2	2.4	1.9
Lime	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.8
Pulp and paper	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7
Engineering and vehicles	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.7
Glass	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Other	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Ceramics	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1

Floods: Housing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Vale of York of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1519-20W, on floods: housing, what progress has been made on the Environment Agency's flood defence schemes announced in the 2005 medium term plan with a construction start in 2006-07 and with a construction spend in 2006-07 of greater than £250,000; and what the status of each scheme is. [209481]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* I have asked the chief executive of the Environment Agency to write with a reply.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on charging households for waste disposal. [209490]

Joan Ruddock: Under the powers included in the Climate Change Bill, up to five local authorities in England will be granted permission to pilot incentive schemes for people to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

The councils will be able to come forward with schemes to fit local circumstances, but they must be approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and follow clear guidelines set out in legislation including having checks and balances in place for residents. As part of these schemes, those throwing away the least would receive a rebate and those throwing away the most could pay more. Local authorities will have to pay back to residents overall any money they collect from them as part of the pilots.

The schemes will then be reviewed to ascertain their success and a report made to Parliament before a decision is made on whether they can be introduced more widely.

PRIME MINISTER

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received since June 2007 from the leaders of political parties in Northern Ireland *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the extension of the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what response was given to those representations; and if he will make a statement. [209102]

The Prime Minister: The views of the leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland are a matter for them. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for North Antrim (Rev. Ian Paisley) at Prime Minister's Questions on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 183.

Members: Correspondence

Graham Stringer: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter of 31 March 2008 from the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley on the Barnett Formula. [209408]

The Prime Minister: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister what the Ministerial duties and responsibilities of the Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household are. [208668]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the House of Commons Standard Note: SN/PC/2829. Copies are available on the Parliament website and in the Library of the House.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 806W, on departmental responsibilities, when the Government plan to issue a formal response to the consultation on the equality Bill's proposals. [206032]

Barbara Follett: The Government have been developing policy in light of the responses to consultation on the equality Bill's proposals. A formal response to the consultation will be issued as soon as policy proposals have been finalised and agreed.

Discrimination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans she has to eradicate multiple discrimination. [201394]

Barbara Follett: Views on multiple discrimination were received in response to the Government's consultation on proposals for the equality Bill. These are currently being considered and will be included in the Government's response to the consultation which will be issued in due course.

Equal Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 13 September 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1022-23W, on the Department of Trade and Industry, what progress has been made in meeting the Government's target for 45 per cent. of large organisations to undertake pay reviews by April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [201402]

Barbara Follett: In 2005 the Equal Opportunities Commission found that 34 per cent. of large employers had carried out equal pay reviews. Its successor body, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, has recently commissioned a similar survey the findings of which will enable the Government Equalities Office to assess progress towards he 45 per cent. target. Closing the pay gap is a high priority for this Government and is one of the indicators in the new Equality Public Service Agreement (PSA 15).

Equality: Greater London

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government Equalities Office has taken with the Office of the Mayor of London to address equality issues concerning London. [201421]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) works with the Office of the Mayor of London, other local authorities and the Government Office Network on a range of equality matters. For example, the GEO held a number of meetings with the Greater London Authority as part of the Equality Bill consultation process and the Minister for Women and Equality spoke to them about 'Women in London's Economy' on 28 February 2008.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department paid in housing benefit to *(a)* working age households and *(b)* working age households in receipt of out-of-work benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) Government Office region; [203283]

(2) how much his Department paid in council tax benefit to *(a)* working age households and *(b)* working age households in receipt of out-of-work benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority and (iii) Government Office region; [203284]

(3) how much his Department paid in out-of-work benefits plus housing benefit and council tax benefit to working age households in receipt of out-of-work benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* Government Office region. [203286]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not currently available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed by the Child Support Agency was in the last period for which figures are available.[1] [203262]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Susan Park, dated 9 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on annual leave, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed with the Child Support Agency is. [203262]

Robust information on the length of arrears repayment schedules is not held centrally and to obtain it would involve additional examination of all relevant cases. The information required to answer this question cannot therefore be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Agency has introduced tougher enforcement measures through its Operational Improvement Plan, launched in April 2006. If the Agency cannot secure immediate repayment in full from the non-resident parent, it aims to reach agreements that will see arrears paid back within two years wherever possible.

The Agency collected or arranged more than £1 billion in maintenance in the twelve months to March 2008, of which £126m was arrears. This is almost twice the £68 million of arrears collected in the year to March 2006 before the full introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the uptake of council tax benefit. [206589]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* Our priority is to increase take-up of council tax benefit (CTB) by pensioners.

People applying for pension credit by telephone can access CTB (and housing benefit) at the same time, using a shortened three-page claim form which is completed for them during the phone call. Customers only have to provide information once. The income and savings information supplied for the pension credit application is used for the CTB claim.

From October 2008, we will dispense with even the short claim form for claims made in this way. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service will collect the CTB claim information and pass it direct to the local authority for assessment.

The Department for Work and Pensions has also run promotional campaigns in each of the last five years to increase awareness of CTB. In March 2008, regional press advertising was used to promote uptake of CTB, with greater focus in areas where our data suggests take up may be low. We also provided marketing materials promoting CTB to local authorities to be included in council tax bills.

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming income support with disability premium. [209687]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of income support claimants with a disability premium as at November 2007, the latest period for which figures are available, is 1,107,830.

Note:

Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities have been consulted on proposed Jobcentre Plus closures. [202607]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 9 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which Local Authorities have been consulted on proposed Jobcentre Plus office closures. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has undergone significant transformation over the last 5 years. During this transformation our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre Plus office has been to take into account, for example, the impact closure may have on customer service, whether the work and staff can be relocated and what the savings might be in relation to the costs of closure. Consultation with local stakeholders is an integral part of the planning process and we are committed to full consultation with our customers, partner organisations, Local Authorities, Trade Unions and staff, and local Members of Parliament in advance of implementing site closures.

I attach a list of Jobcentre Plus offices that received ministerial approval for closure following consultation and a copy has been placed in the Library. The list includes the relevant Local Authorities consulted.

I am also gathering information on offices that are either currently undergoing consultation on proposed closure or have recently completed a closure consultation exercise and will send you a further response with these details by the end of May 2008. These details will also be placed in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter of 30 April from the hon. Member for Walsall North regarding a constituent and the Child Support Agency. [209520]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I replied to my hon. Friend on 6 June 2008.

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[1] *[Official Report, 30 June 2008, Vol. 478, c. 5MC.]*

Remploy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much revenue was *(a)* generated by Remploy from the sale of goods and services and *(b)* generated by sales from each Remploy factory, in each of the company's last 10 financial years. [203549]

Mrs. McGuire: The revenue generated by Remploy sales does not take account of the grant in aid provided by sponsoring Government Departments that is required to support operations running at a loss.

This grant in aid information is not available broken down by factory, but is included in the summary table for annual performance.

The available information is in the following tables.

	Revenue generated by Remploy from the sale of goods and services (annual turnover)	£ *Grant in aid paid to Remploy by sponsoring Government Departments*
1997-1998	158,206,000	94,161,000
1998-1999	175,292,000	94,161,000
1999-2000	165,448,000	95,661,000
2000-2001	154,544,000	100,661,000
2001-2002	150,830,000	100,061,000
2002-2003	157,958,000	119,162,000
2003-2004	160,545,000	115,000,000
2004-2005	165,307,000	116,000,000
2005-2006	166,619,000	119,300,000
2006-2007	165,702,000	133,800,000

Source:
Remploy annual report and accounts

Revenue generated by sales from each Remploy factory

	2003-2004	*2004-2005*	*2005-2006*	£000 *2006-2007*
Wisbech	n/a	58	67	52
Birmingham	18,251	16,674	17,517	18,303
Barrow	352	389	394	522
Edinburgh	536	611	831	689
Aberdeen	102	111	197	221
Sunderland	1,695	1,866	1,535	1,941
Spennymoor	410	141	397	504
Hartlepool	247	289	285	441
Holloway	204	258	185	179
Norwich	3,524	3,374	3,388	3,772
North Staffs	10,037	12,792	9,420	11,986
Acton	2,057	2,793	1,540	1,275
Medway	594	733	630	1,326
Leatherhead	170	106	181	145
Portsmouth	568	627	621	1,416
Bridgend	1,584	1,584	3,204	6,671
Bristol	512	325	639	618
Forth	3,350	2,693	808	1,493
Croespenmaen	1,437	1,338	1,195	1,309
Wigan	144	148	191	220
Burnley	1,594	1,453	1,545	2,098
Preston	161	649	1,340	1,899
Lanarkshire	428	401	393	360
Bradford	91	129	108	98
Gateshead	187	207	261	245
Pontefract	816	424	476	702
Oldham	631	429	3,364	5,120
Brixton	253	158	205	229
Coventry	21,176	17,091	16,088	13,908
Barking	1,727	1,646	1,394	1,583
Southend	57	98	168	1,583
Southampton	288	751	1031	404
Abertillery	1,427	1,898	1,355	932
Lydney	95	100	9?L	99
Hull	454	663	323	350
Penzance	n/a	n/a	235	296

Revenue generated by sales from each Remploy factory

				£000
	2003-2004	*2004-2005*	*2005-2006*	*2006-2007*
Leeds	2,034	2,033	1,986	1,714
Stockport	705	861	780	496
Radcliffe	4,121	2,,028	216	415
Worksop	n/a	174	225	209
Leicester	145	181	176	243
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,213	1,429	1,210	559
Chesterfield	1,694	1,148	896	934
Derby	n/a	n/a	1,450	976
Mansfield	156	148	231	[illegible]25
Jarrow	n/a	n/a	655	379
Newcastle-on-Tyne	1,182	1,232	1,160	1,226
Halifax	549	495	484	313
Stockton	297	240	144	n/a
Ashington	2158	693	846	896
Huddersfield	n/a	n/a	2,540	1,792
Aintree	5,417	4,457	207	161
St. Helens (old)	2,452	1,469	424	0
Manchester	808	900	813	924
[illegible]irkenhead	1,216	2,342	1,984	1,573
Bolton	1,013	1,367	1,154	1,495
Springburn	1,218	970	952	1,015
Hillington	133	114	84	83
Woolwich	79	112	183	191
Aberdare	2,079	1,137	641	661
Redruth	n/a	n/a	385	304
St. Helens (new)	0	2,576	10,777	9,308
Furniture factories[1]	19,484	20,910	21,628	18,767
Textile factories[1]	19,627	25,413	25,850	12,442

[1] Sales not individually identified.

Notes:

1. Remploy does not have records of sales by site prior to 2003-04, when its central accounting system was introduced.
2. The textiles and furniture businesses are integrated businesses where materials are moved from site to site for processing and, therefore, for these factories sales are not ascribed to individual sites. Remploy have advised that in many cases high sales income is accompanied by high material costs. Therefore sales is not a good guide to the quality of the work on a site or to the profitability of that site.

Source:

Remploy

Social Security Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what range of earnings disregards apply to each category of customer for each income-related benefit. [206690]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is a range of earnings disregards across the income-related benefits. The following weekly amounts of earnings are disregarded in the circumstances shown in income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit:

	£
Single people who do not satisfy the vulnerable or specialist group criteria	5.00
Couples who do not satisfy the vulnerable or specialist group criteria	10.00
Vulnerable groups[1]	20.00
Specialist groups[2]	20.00
Lone parents in housing benefit and council tax benefit	25.00
Certain people on housing benefit and council tax benefit in remunerative work[3]	16.05

[1] Vulnerable groups are defined as lone parents, disabled or carers. Additionally people aged 60 or over in income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance; and people in receipt of the higher pensioner premium or pensioner premium for those aged 75 or over in housing benefit and council tax benefit. This £20 disregard may be carried over to a subsequent pension credit claim provided the necessary conditions are met.

[2] Specialist groups are defined as part-time firefighters, members of the territorial or reserve force, lifeboat crew and some coastguards.

[3] Applies if the claimant or their partner is aged 25 or over and engaged in remunerative work averaging not less than 30 hours per week; or the claimant has responsibility for a child or a qualifying young person (and as a result is entitled to the family premium) and the claimant or their partner is engaged in remunerative work for 16 or more hours per week; or the claimant or their partner qualifies for the disability premium or the higher pensioner premium and that same person is engaged in remunerative work for 16 or more hours per week; or the claimant or their partner receives the 30 hour element within working tax credit; or the claimant or their partner receives the 50-plus element within working tax credit, or would receive it if they were to apply for working tax credit.

In carer's allowance, carers can undertake some work if they are able to do so. A carer may have earnings of up to £95 a week and retain entitlement to carer's allowance. This amount is calculated net of expenses such as income tax, national insurance contributions, half of any contribution towards an occupational or personal pension and help towards the cost of care for a child or the disabled person while the carer is at work.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were owned by each local authority in each year since 1997; what each authority's *(a)* rental income, *(b)* capital receipts, *(c)* management and maintenance allowance and *(d)* major repairs allowance was in each of those years; and if she will provide projections for each of those figures for the next 30 years using the assumptions adopted by her Department's self-financing of council housing services modelling exercise. [203539]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables showing the available data for each local authority currently holding housing stock for *(a)*, *(c)* and *(d)* for the years 1997-98 onwards have been placed in the Library of the House. Consistent data for *(b)* are not available by individual local authority for the period requested and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Communities and Local Government does not have figures for the categories requested projected over the next 30 years for each local authority. The evidence for the self-financing modelling exercise, including for capital receipts, was produced by the six local authorities involved. We would need to go out to all local authorities to ask them to provide similar projections, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 534W, on council tax valuation, how many homes revalued for council tax in each region in the UK in each year since 1997 resulted in *(a)* revaluation to (i) a higher band and (ii) a lower band and *(b)* staying in the same band. [209693]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2305W.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 17W, on the Fairtrade initiative, (1) what Fairtrade products are available for purchase at her Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; [209011]

(2) what the value was of Fairtrade products purchased at her Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [209012]

Mr. Dhanda: Fairtrade teas, sugars and a selection of cookies, chocolate bars and flapjacks are available from CLG's HQ staff catering facilities. In addition Fairtrade teas are available from vending machines.

In relation to refreshments for official meetings, Fairtrade teas, coffee and sugars are available.

Sales of Fairtrade products are not separately identified from non-Fairtrade products and therefore the value of Fairtrade sales is not available.

Green Belt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on the green belt, if she will list each of the specific special circumstances in which development is permitted on green belt designated land, according to planning guidance and regulations. [207519]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts", requires decision-makers to satisfy themselves that any harm from inappropriate development proposed in green belt would be clearly outweighed by the benefits. Once that is shown, an additional test is applied, to which the hon. Member refers. Guidance requires the decision-maker in a case to judge whether the planning applicant has successfully argued that "very special circumstances" would justify an exceptional grant of planning permission in green belt.

The courts have directed that the words "very special circumstances" be given their ordinary and natural meaning, and it is for each applicant to demonstrate their existence to the local planning authority in relation to the individual circumstances of their case. As an example, the courts have held that the personal circumstances of the applicant or their family such as the educational needs of children may contribute to "very special circumstances". However, given that each case must be judged on its merits, it follows that there could never be a definitive list of what might qualify.

Housing: Birmingham

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was made available to Birmingham City Council for expenditure on housing stock in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1989, *(d)* 1991, *(e)* 1997, *(f)* 1999, *(g)* 2001, *(h)* 2005 and *(i)* 2007, expressed in current prices and broken down by category; and what allocation has been made for 2008. [205447]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data prior to 1991 are not available and specific data for the years 1991-96 inclusive could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows management and maintenance allowances per council dwelling for each year (prior to 1999-2000 the allowances were calculated as a single amount), and the major repairs allowance (MRA) from its introduction in 2001-02, multiplied by the council's housing stock for the relevant period. These allowances are made as part of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy programme.

	Management (a)	*Maintenance (b)*	*Management and maintenance (a+b)*	*Major repairs allowance (d)*	*Assumed stock (e)*	*Total allowances (c+d) x (e)*	*Borrowing approval for capital investment in housing*[1]
1997-98	n/a	n/a	1,198	—	95,085	113,875,965	—
1999-2000	390	808	1,198	—	92,535	110,864,697	20,098,418
2001-02	389	850	1,239	890	87,571	160,149,760	30,530,448
2005-06	553	891	1,445	584	73,009	148,091,348	18,508,278
2007-08	601	929	1,530	572	68,283	143,532,538	10,366,702
2008-09	605	932	1,537	577	66,911	141,451,687	10,063,040

[1] This is the amount of borrowing the Government would provide support for. Up until and including 2001-02 this figure is the part of the BCA (Basie Credit Approvals) supported through the HRA subsidy system. From 2005-06 onwards the figure is that part of SCE(R) (Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)) supported within the HRA Subsidy System.

The table also includes figures for housing-related allocations for capital investment. This gives the council approval to borrow up to the sum specified.

All prices are shown calculated to 2006-07 cash equivalents using the latest available GDP deflator provided by HM Treasury. The figures for 2007-2008 and later are based upon forecasts of the GDP deflator.

Housing: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has issued to local authorities in London on designating land for the building of new homes. [208851]

Mr. Iain Wright: National planning policy for housing is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) Housing, published November 2006, which includes a section entitled "Delivering a flexible supply of land for housing" (paragraphs 52 to 61). Supporting guidance, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Practice Guidance, published in July 2007, sets out how to put in place evidence on land availability for housing.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (PPS12), published June 2008, sets out how local planning authorities should prepare local development documents. In relation to housing, this includes ensuring that the necessary land is available at the right time and in the right place to deliver new housing.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the capital value of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* council housing stock in each year since 1997. [203537]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is not possible for the Department to provide comparable figures on stock asset values for both local authorities and housing associations from published accounts. The following figures are displayed separately as a result.

The Department collects figures on the capital assets of local authority (LA) housing stock in England through the Capital Outturn Return (COR). These are published in the Local Government Financial Statistics volume:

Table 1: Value of local authority fixed assets, all council dwellings

	£ million
1998	
1999	59,504
2000	60,094
2001	67,203
2002	75,576
2003	86,334
2004	97,979
2005	106,983
2006	98,518

Notes: 1. LA stock valued at Existing Use Value—Social Housing (EUV-SH), a statutory requirement as at 1 April 2000.
2. Figures as at 31 March each year.
3. 1998 laid down in the Library of the House of Commons. Not available on the web.
Source:
Communities and Local Government, Local Government Financial Statistics.

All figures supplied in table 1 are at current value for the year of reporting.

The Global Accounts of Housing Associations, published by the Housing Corporation (the regulator of housing associations in England) provides figures for registered social landlords:

Table 2: Value of housing association fixed assets

£ million

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Housing properties at original cost[1]	50,445	54,835	60,251
Housing properties at current value[2]	13,711	15,460	17,175

[1] The original cost of houses when they were built/purchased.
[2] A minority of properties re-valued each year on EUV-SH basis.
Notes:
1. Cost and valuation figures are separate measurements based on different parts of the whole stock—they cannot be added together to obtain a picture of the whole stock.
2. 2007 global accounts differ from predecessors as returns are based on associations >1,000 homes. Between 2004 and 2006 associations with >250 homes were included for reporting purposes. The 2005 and 2006 figures above are based on associations with >1,000 dwellings to allow for comparison.
Source:
Housing Corporation—Global Accounts of Housing Associations.

'Housing properties at original cost' will include many homes where the cost recorded is considerably out of date. These figures will therefore be depressed and represent properties that are now significantly undervalued.

'Housing properties at current value' denotes properties valued on a five-yearly basis with a review at year three. Valuations in the other years should be done where there is likely to be a material change in valuation. Re-valuation is an expensive exercise and only a minority of associations hold their assets at valuation. In most cases this is the value on a discounted cash flow basis using net rental income over a specified period. This can also undervalue properties compared to open market sales values.

RSLs have a choice between valuing their properties or stating them at historic cost. RSLs in preparing their accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) issued by the three national housing federations (England, Wales and Scotland) and franked by the Accounting Standards Board. The SORP authorises that associations can use either method of stating the value of their houses and is neutral as to which they should use.

Information for 1999-2000 to 2003-04 can be obtained from the Global Accounts of Housing Associations which are available on the Housing Corporation's website:

www.housingcorp.gov.uk

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her definition of an affordable home in London is; and what the definition was in each of the last five years. [208827]

Mr. Iain Wright: A new definition of affordable housing appears in Planning Policy Statement 3—Housing which was published in November 2006. The definition states that:

> "Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should:
>
> Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.
>
> Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative housing provision."

Local planning authorities are required to use this definition when preparing plan policies and determining planning applications for housing.

This excludes 'low cost market' housing—for example, homes which do not [illegible]in affordable on resale.

The new definition was adopted because Government wished to ensure that developer contributions are used to help provide genuinely affordable housing for households in need over the long term.

The London Plan definition (consolidated with alterations since 2004) published in February 2008 is consistent with national policy in Planning Policy Statement 3.

Housing: Regeneration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has advised housing market renewal pathfinders to accept the guidance on [illegible]nsultation on renewal or regeneration areas in the [illegible]t National Audit Office report on pathfinders. [209749]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are awaiting the publication of the report on the Housing Market Renewal programme by the Public Accounts Committee, following its hearing on 19 November 2007. Once they have reviewed the PAC recommendations, the Government will consider what advice they will issue to pathfinders.

Public Places: Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on limitations on where people can smoke in open public spaces, with particular reference to the gardens of public houses. [208997]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State ~~has had~~ no such discussions.

Wind Power: Housing Market

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the [illegible]ting of wind turbines on the market price of houses within sight of the turbines; and if she will make a statement. [209589]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not made an assessment of the effect the siting of wind turbines has had on the price of houses within sight of the turbines.

TRANSPORT

Bournemouth Airport: Noise

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent noise assessments have been made of Bournemouth International Airport; and how she expects noise levels to change when the airport expands. [208776]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State publishes annual aircraft noise contour maps for the three London airports (Heathrow Gatwick and Stansted) which are designated under section 80 for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 for noise control purposes.

The Secretary of State is not responsible for the production of noise contour maps at non-designated airports such as Bournemouth International Airport. The publication of aircraft noise contour maps is a matter for local decision.

Under the European environmental noise directive (END) 2002/49/EC, member states are required to produce strategic noise maps every five years for the main sources of environmental noise, including major airports with more than 50,000 movements (a movement being a take-off or landing) per year. The relevant UK-airports including Bournemouth International Airport produced maps last year. The maps can be viewed on DEFRA's website (noisemappinq@defra.gov.uk).

The next stage of implementation of the directive requires airports to produce noise action plans during the course of this year. Under the terms of the directive, the airport is required to consult the local community in the preparation of the plan. It is expected that this will primarily be through engagement with the local airport consultative committee.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of employees in her Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208372]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport are currently in the process of conducting performance management reviews and allocating any applicable bonuses. This process is likely to come to a conclusion in late July 2008.

Electrification

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the percentage of the rail network that has been electrified. [209328]

Mr. Tom Harris: 39 per cent. of the network is electrified.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much food waste her Department generated in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [208145]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Within the Department, on-site catering services are available only at the Department's main HQ in London, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) sites in Swansea, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) residential training facility in Bedfordshire and at the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) HQ in Bristol.

The requested information is not recorded at our London HQ nor is it recorded at the VOSA HQ in Bristol.

The DVLA estimates that total food purchases in 2008-09 will generate 0.7 per cent. of waste. This figure accounts only for wastage during the food preparation and service; it does not include any customer generated wastage.

The DSA estimates that the residential training centre in Bedfordshire produces 1200kg of food wastage on an annual basis.

Lorries

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of domestic heavy-goods vehicle trade was accounted for by non-UK registered and operated vehicles in the last 12 months. [208350]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data for the last 12 months are not available. The latest available data, published by Eurostat for 2006, show that 1.1 per cent. of domestic road freight activity was transported by non-UK registered vehicles.

M25: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure the maintenance scheme on the drainage system on the M25 between junctions 8 and 9 close to Walton on the Hill includes provision to replace the concrete surface with a quieter surface. [209513]

Mr. Tom Harris: Generally, the concrete carriageway on the M25 between junctions 8 and 9 close to Walton on the Hill is in good condition and will not require resurfacing for maintenance needs within the period of the Highways Agency's current five-year forward programme.

The proposed drainage scheme on this section of the M25 is in the Highways Agency's current five-year forward programme. The timing of the scheme will be reviewed against competing priorities for funding as part of the Highways Agency's value management process.

Therefore the drainage scheme will not include provision to replace the concrete surface with a quieter surface. However, when the carriageway does need to be resurfaced, a quieter surfacing will be used as a matter of course.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars in Worcestershire have been registered in bands F and G since *(a)* 1 March 2001 and *(b)* 23 March 2006. [209519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of licensed cars registered in Worcestershire at the end of 2007 with carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the present Band F (186 to 225 g/km) and Band G (over 225 g/km) were as follows:

	186 to 225 g/km	*Over 225 g/km*
Registered between 1 March 2001 and 31 December 2007	29,334	16,093
Registered between 23 March 2006 and 31 December 2007	7,074	3,178

Cars with carbon dioxide emissions greater than 225 g/km are taxed in Band F if they were first registered between 1 March 2001 and 23 March 2006.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to introduce legislative proposals to make daytime running lamps compulsory for all motor vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [209352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A directive requiring daytime running lamps on new types of vehicle from early 2011 was recently adopted by European member states.

The directive will require that from early 2011 new types of passenger car/light van are fitted with low-wattage dedicated daylight running lamps (DRL). These will automatically activate when the engine is started. By summer 2012, buses and large/heavy vehicles will also have to be fitted. This will apply to new vehicle types, not to existing vehicles or new vehicles built under existing approvals.

The Government have no plans to introduce additional legislation on this matter.

Public Transport

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Answer from Lord Bassam of Brighton on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 26-8WA, on transport: tram trains, where and when the second phase of the trial will be held. [209852]

Mr. Tom Harris: The first phase of the tram train trial will start in 2010 and it will take two years to test the technical and operational feasibility of tram train and gather the necessary data to understand the costs and benefits. Subject to successful completion of the first phase there is an option for a second phase to use the Sheffield Supertram network to see what additional benefits the vehicles can deliver when extended onto city centre tram lines.

Railways: Fares

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of a standard rail fare was from Cardiff to Bangor in each of the last 12 years. [209846]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold information for every year of the last 12. The Office of Rail Regulation publishes a summary of key fares data in its National Rail Trends publication, available from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

However, within the manuals and systems to which we have access we can say that the saver return from Cardiff to Bangor (without restriction on time of travel) was £63.10 in 1996, and £68 in 2008. This is a considerable saving in real terms.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on how many occasions she has *(a)* held discussions with a train operating company in respect of the operation of their penalty fare scheme and *(b)* withdrawn permission for a train operating company penalty fare scheme; [209879]

(2) what arrangements she has made for monitoring the operation of penalty fare schemes. [209880]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any operator with an Approved Penalty Fares Scheme is obliged to supply the Secretary of State with

> "any information which is necessary for penalty fares to be charged fairly, efficiently and in line with the Regulations and rules."

The Department for Transport has regular contacts with all the train operators who have Approved Penalty Fares Schemes, and with the Approved Penalty Appeals Services providers.

It has not been necessary to use the powers provided for in line with section 130 of the 1993 Railways Act, and regulation 11 of the Railways (Penalty Fare) Regulations 1994, Section 10 of the 2002 Penalty Fares Rules to formally prevent any scheme operator either partially or fully from charging penalty fares.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what mechanisms her Department uses to determine the duration of rail franchises; [208314]

(2) what recent representations she has received from the rail industry on the optimum duration of franchises; [208318]

(3) what estimate she has made of the optimum duration of rail franchises; and what the evidential basis of this estimate is. [208319]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport makes a judgment about the appropriate length of each franchise while the specification is being developed. The key factors will usually be milestones in the wider franchising programme, and the impact of any major rail projects. The new South Central franchise is planned as a five-year, 10-month franchise, ending in July 2015, with a further possible two-year extension at the department's discretion. This gives maximum flexibility to the Department to align the end dates of the Thameslink Greater Northern and South Central franchises with the completion of major infrastructure work on the Thameslink Programme, and any major franchise remapping that may result.

The Department consulted franchise owning-groups on the length of the South Central franchise. Responses were mixed, with some preferring a short franchise with relatively high levels of certainty about the outputs, and others preferring a longer franchise, where the impact of the Thameslink Programme on the business would be dealt with as the franchise progressed.

Franchise length is decided on a case-by-case basis. However recent franchises have generally been around seven to 10 years in length, with the last part of the franchise dependent on achieving performance targets. This is a balance: it provides operators with an incentive to plan in the medium term, but allows the Department to return regularly to the market to seek value for the taxpayer and further improvements for passengers.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the length of franchises on *(a)* the performance of train-operating companies and *(b)* the ability of train-operating companies to undertake expenditure to improve services. [208316]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has not carried out a formal assessment of this kind. In our view any such analysis would be inconclusive, as there is no clear way to isolate the effect of franchise length. It is clear, however, that performance and expenditure by operators has varied considerably among franchises of similar length.

The Department and Network Rail have mechanisms in place to ensure that rail expenditure overall is targeted to deliver improvements that are effective for passengers and provide good value for money to taxpayers.

Railways: Passengers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people used the rail network in the most recent accounting period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* franchise and *(b)* route. [209284]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold information of this detail on the number of rail passenger journeys made. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does, however, publish rail passenger flows by train operating company and by region. These are given in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from the ORR website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what funding her Department and its predecessors provided for each official overseas visit by *(a)* HM the Queen and *(b)* other members of the royal family in each of the last 10 years; [207655]

(2) what arrangements there are for the apportionment of costs in relation to official travel overseas by members of the royal family between her Department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [207705]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The costs of all official overseas visits undertaken by members of the royal family are met by the grant in aid for royal travel by air and rail. An annual report on the grant in aid is published each June as part of the Royal Household Report on Royal Public Finances. Copies of the report—which includes an appendix detailing all official overseas visits undertaken by members of the royal family are placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report for 2007-08 will be issued later this month.

Trailers: EU Action

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the provisions of the draft EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval Directive on small trailer manufacturers. [208652]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* Our proposals for implementing EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval (EU Directive 2007/46/EC) are currently out for consultation.

Our latest assessment shows that the average cost to the small trailer industry will be:

£4.27 million/annum if we introduce European schemes only; or

£1.99 million/annum if we introduce both European schemes and National Approval schemes

Our assessment has been made in close conjunction with industry and key stakeholders and is set out in more detail in the draft impact assessment at:

www.dft.gov.uk/typeapprovalconsultation

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will set a sector-specific target for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from road transport. [209044]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* No. This would not be sensible as we are seeking to reduce emissions across the economy not just within road transport. Stern highlights the need for flexibility to take action where it costs least to ensure the cost of mitigation is manageable. Imposing targets for particular sub-sectors will reduce those flexibilities and increase costs.

In the carbon budgets, to be established under the Climate Change Bill, the UK's emissions will be split into those sectors of the economy that participate in emissions trading schemes (the traded sector) and those that do not (the non-traded sector). A similar approach has been proposed by the European Commission in order to meet the EU's 2020 greenhouse gas reduction targets. The European Commission has proposed a 16 per cent. reduction target over 2005 levels for the UK's non-traded sector.

About half the UK's emissions are in the non-traded sector. Over half of these are from transport, with most of the remainder coming from domestic heating. Under the EU proposal and the UK's own carbon budgeting system, the level of effort for emissions reduction will be set for the whole non-traded sector. This will cover all of the UK's road transport emissions.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Air Transport Auxiliary Veterans Badges she expects to issue; when she expects to issue them; and what the cost of the project is. [209323]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is understood there were around 4,000 members of the Air Transport Auxiliary by 1945. The Department for Transport is working with the Air Transport Auxiliary Association to ensure that all eligible members of the Air Transport Auxiliary receive a Veterans Badge when it is launched later this year.

The final cost of the project is dependent upon the number of eligible recipients identified by the association.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* males aged 16 to 18, *(b)* females aged 16 to 18, *(c)* males aged 19 to 24 and *(d)* females aged 19 to 24 years were not in employment, education or training in each English region in (i) May 1997 and (ii) May 2008. [208853]

Bill Rammell: The data presented in the following tables are taken from the labour force survey (LFS). The tables show, for each Government office region, the number of people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by age group (16 to 18 and 19 to 24)[1] and gender for (i) quarter 4 1997 and (ii) quarter 4 2007. Information for May 2008 is not yet available.

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[1] We have used academic age; respondents age at preceding 31 August.

Table 1: Number of people not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 1997, by region, age and gender[1]

Government office region	16 to 18			19 to 24		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	7,000	6,000	13,000	12,000	17,500	29,500
North West (including Merseyside)	10,500	19,000	29,500	26,500	44,000	70,500
Yorkshire and Humber	7,500	8,500	16,000	20,000	36,500	56,500
East Midlands	5,000	4,500	9,500	16,500	20,500	37,000
West Midlands	10,000	10,000	20,000	21,500	41,500	63,000
Eastern	7,500	8,000	15,500	16,500	27,500	43,500
London	10,500	12,000	22,500	41,500	58,500	100,000
South East	10,500	9,000	19,500	24,500	47,000	71,500
South West,	5,500	6,000	11,500	11,000	25,000	36,000
England	74,000	83,000	157,000	190,000	317,500	507,500

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 500.

Table 2: Number of people not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 2007, by region, age and gender[1]

Government office region	16 to 18			19 to 24		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	3,000	7,500	10,500	14,000	24,000	38,500
North West (including Merseyside)	15,000	10,000	25,000	45,500	49,500	95,000
Yorkshire and Humber	14,500	10,500	25,000	22,500	34,500	57,000
East Midlands	12,000	6,500	19,000	21,000	30,000	51,000
West Midlands	13,500	12,500	26,000	20,500	46,000	67,000
Eastern	10,500	9,500	20,000	18,000	36,000	53,500
London	16,500	7,000	23,500	35,000	64,000	99,000
South East	15,500	12,500	28,000	35,000	53,500	88,500
South West	9,500	5,000	14,500	14,500	27,000	41,000
England	110,500	81,500	192,000	226,000	364,500	590,500

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 500.

The total number of 16 to 18-year-olds and 19 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) has risen since 1997, but this reflects an increase in the overall population. The proportion of 19 to 24-year-olds NEET remains unchanged at 15 per cent., although the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET had risen slightly (from 9 per cent. to 10 per cent.).

It should be noted that although the proportion of 19 to 24-year-olds NEET is higher than the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET, 37 per cent. (217,000) of 19 to 24-year-old NEETs claim to be economically inactive because they are looking after their family or home. The proportion of 16 to 18-year-old NEETs looking after their family or home is 12 per cent. (22,000).

Table 3: Percentage of people not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 1997, by region, age and gender

Government office region	16 to 18			19 to 24		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	13	12	13	14	20	17
North West (including Merseyside)	9	15	12	11	19	15
Yorkshire and Humber	8	9	8	11	21	16
East Midlands	7	6	7	11	14	12
West Midlands	9	11	10	12	22	17
Eastern	8	8	8	9	17	13
London	8	10	9	15	19	17
South East	7	6	7	9	18	14
South West	6	8	7	7	16	12
England	8	10	9	11	19	15

Table 4: Percentage of people not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 2007, by region, age and gender

Government office region	16 to 18			19 to 24		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	7	16	11	12	22	17
North West (including Merseyside)	10	7	9	16	18	17
Yorkshire and Humber	13	10	12	10	16	13

Table 6. Percentage of people not in employment, education or training in quarter 4 2007, by region, age and gender

Government office region	16 to 18 Male	16 to 18 Female	16 to 18 Total	19 to 24 Male	19 to 24 Female	19 to 24 Total
East Midlands	14	9	11	11	17	14
West Midlands	12	12	12	10	22	16
Eastern	9	9	9	9	18	14
London	13	6	9	12	21	16
South East	10	8	9	12	18	15
South West	10	6	8	7	14	11
England	11	9	10	11	18	15

The figures provided here for young people of academic age 16 to 18 who are NEET do not represent the official DCSF estimates of NEET. The official national estimates are produced from a combination of administrative sources and LFS data, and can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

The DCSF national estimates for 16 to 18 NEET cannot be disaggregated to regional level. Local figures are usually estimated using the Connexions Service's data system, the Client Caseload Information System. However, since this data is not available for the 19 to 24 group, or for 1997, estimates derived purely from the LFS are provided here.

It is important to note that as with all survey estimates, these estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling error. Nationally, the margin of error around the LFS 16 to 18 NEET estimate is around +/- 1.4 per cent., and when broken down by region and gender, the margin of error will be much larger. The figures should, therefore, be treated with caution.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2404W, on departmental translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 to date. [197545]

Mr. Thomas: Expenditure on translations into Welsh, to support departmental requirements in accordance with its Welsh Language Scheme, is as follows:

	Into Welsh (£)
2003-04	18,634
2004-05	55,460
2005-06	75,855
2006-07	[1]58,221
2007-08	16,805

[1] An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member on 4 March 2008 *Official Report*, column 2404W, with respect to expenditure on translation services in 2006-07. The correct figure on expenditure with the Department's supplier is £539,711.

Expenditure on translations into other languages (other than English) to support departmental business, including providing appropriate access to information in accordance with the Department's 'Race Equality Scheme', and the overseas promotional activities of UK Trade and Investment (the joint BERR and FCO organisation) is as follows:

	Languages other than English (£)[1]
2003-04	227,097
2004-05	234,326
2005-06	244,270
2006-07	[2]395,343
2007-08	248,248

[1] Includes costs of specialised typesetting and printing for some languages e.g. Arabic, Japanese. It has not been possible to identify such costs separately, from the information available centrally, without incurring disproportionate costs.

[2] An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2404W, with respect to expenditure on translation services in 2006-07. The correct figure on expenditure with the Department's supplier is £539,711.

In an earlier answer I gave to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1754W, the figure of £16,805 for translations into Welsh in 2007-08, for which information is available separately, was inadvertently included in the figure for 'translations into other languages'. The correct figure for the latter (excluding Welsh) is now £248,248.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter of 11 March 2008 on Post Office Ltd and financial aid to closed post offices in Hampshire. [203412]

Mr. Thomas: My hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. McFadden) responded to the right hon. Member on 19 May.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under 16 years are in care homes in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(c)* the UK. [208106]

Kevin Brennan: Information is only available on children looked after who are placed in care homes by Leeds local authority; this covers the same area as Leeds metropolitan district.

Information on the number of children under 16 years who were in care homes in Leeds local authority at 31 March 2007 is shown in the following table:

Children looked after under the age of 16 at 31 March in Children's Homes 2007[1, 2]

England	*Number*
England	3,500
Children's Homes regulations	
inside Council boundary	1,900
outside Council boundary	1,600
Leeds LA	80
Children's Homes regulations	
inside Council boundary	80
outside Council boundary	—

[1] SSDA903 return on children looked after. [2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements and children looked after in secure homes and hostels.

Children in Care: Voluntary Organisations

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the role of the third sector in improving outcomes for children in care; and if he will make a statement. [209684]

Kevin Brennan: Voluntary sector organisations have provided significant input into developing Care Matters and most recently worked with Government on the Implementation Plan. The successful implementation of Care Matters will take sustained effort from all parties, including the voluntary sector, many of whom are among a list of stakeholders we consult regularly.

Children: Alcoholic Drinks

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to inform parents of the relationship between under-age drinking and young people becoming *(a)* involved in and *(b)* a victim of a crime; and if he will make a statement. [208408]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* Alcohol consumption is one of the key factors associated with young people committing offences as well as being victims of crime, and is an important focus of the Youth Alcohol Action Plan the Government published on 2 June 2008.

Parents are a crucial influence over young people's attitudes and behaviours towards alcohol. This is why the Youth Alcohol Action Plan drives forward actions to develop a partnership with parents on young people and alcohol.

As part of the Action Plan, we will be issuing guidance to parents around young people and alcohol as well as targeting them with a communications campaign which aims to equip them with the knowledge they need to guide their children towards low-risk drinking.

The Action Plan also sets out measures to tackle young people drinking in public places—particularly when this is associated with antisocial behaviour.

Children: Disadvantaged

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the 10-year child care strategy on children who are most disadvantaged. [209683]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's 10-year childcare strategy, Choice for parents, the best start for children, aims to ensure that every child gets the best start in life and that parents have more choice about how to balance work and family life. It will help to reduce child poverty and the achievement gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers.

The strategy will transform services by creating a strong, multi-agency, high quality universal infrastructure for all young children and families, but with additional help and support targeted on disadvantaged families who benefit most from high quality early years and childcare provision.

Just a third of the way into the Strategy, we are ahead of schedule in establishing a new infrastructure. 2,907 multi-agency Sure Start Children's Centres have opened, offering services to over 2.2 million young children and their families. Almost all of those living in disadvantaged communities now have access to one. There are over 10,500 extended schools (two in five of the total) delivering access to the full core offer with many more schools delivering parts of the offer. 95 per cent. of three and four-year-olds are taking up the free part-time early education entitlement and some 13,000 disadvantaged two-year-olds in 32 local authorities have benefited from access to free early education. The assessments of childcare sufficiency that all local authorities have completed under the Childcare Act 2006 have given them a clear idea of the demand for childcare in their areas, its supply and any gaps between the two, to meet their duty of securing sufficient childcare for working parents.

We regularly evaluate the effectiveness of our policies through research and have a number of ongoing evaluations and data collections to monitor progress and inform the development of new policies. The latest National Evaluation of Sure Start research, published on 4 March, highlighted very clearly that Sure Start programmes are having a positive impact in some of the country's most disadvantaged communities, improving young children's development and strengthening the skills of parents so that they can provide a better home learning environment, helping prepare children to do well at school and make the most of their talents.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209434]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Grandparents

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that appropriate advice and support is available to grandparents who take on the care of their grandchildren. [209800]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities have a broad power under Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 to provide services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need and to promote the upbringing of children by their families, defined to include any person with whom the child is living. These services may include financial help if that is the most appropriate way to meet the child's needs. Grandparents in these circumstances are also entitled to claim child tax credits and child benefit in the same way as other parents. If grandparents or any other relative are caring for a child who is looked after by the local authority, they will be approved as local authority foster carers and entitled to the same financial allowances and support services as any other foster carer.

The Care Matters White Paper set out our commitment to provide a new framework for family and friends care which will set out the expectations of an effective service to enable children to remain within their wider families and communities. We are also seeking to improve services and supports to relative carers through a number of measures in the Children and Young Person's Bill

Pre-school Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the results were of the analysis conducted by his Department on the progress between predicting outcomes from the foundation stage profile points and actual key stage 1 outcomes; and if he will make a statement; [209234]

(2) what analysis has been conducted on behalf of his Department of the progress between predicting outcomes from the foundation stage profile points and actual key stage 1 outcomes. [209163]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has carried out internal analysis on a sample of 48,000 pupils which matched results from the foundation stage profile (FSP) in 2005 to key stage 1 (KS1) teacher assessments from 2007. This showed a clear relationship between the two, with every additional point achieved at the FSP stage increasing the chance of doing well at KS1.

The analysis shows that communication, language and literacy (CLL) has the highest correlation with KS1 outcomes, meaning that children who are developing well in their reading, writing, and spoken language are particularly likely to continue to do well in primary school. Of those pupils who achieve at least six points in all the personal, social and emotional development and CLL scales, a very high proportion go on to achieve the expected level and above KS1 maths (99 per cent.), reading (98 per cent.) and writing (97 per cent.). The analysis is due to be published on 20 June, I will send a copy to the hon. Member and place copies in the House Library.

In addition, in 2007 the National Assessment Agency commissioned a small piece of research in six schools on the relationship between FSP scale points and later attainment at KS1. The outcomes from this research were not reliable and therefore it was not published.

Youth Services

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department and its predecessor has taken to develop youth and community facilities for children over 11 years old in *(a)* England and *(b)* Enfield North constituency in the last five years. [209672]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has committed new investment of £190 million over the next three years to deliver world class youth facilities through the 'myplace' programme delivered through a competitive bidding process by the Big Lottery Fund.

DCSF is also continuing baseline funding of £ 26.5 million per annum over the next three years via local authorities for the Youth Capital Fund (YCF). We set out in the Youth Task Force Action Plan a further £22.6 million in 2008-09 to enhance this fund to benefit young people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and estates.

We do not hold information on Enfield North, only on the Enfield local authority. In 2006-07 and 2007-08 the YCF allocation for Enfield was £169.313. The allocations for 2008-11 are unchanged.

Our vision is that DCSF capital investment drives a system wide transformation in how places for young people to go are planned and delivered, particularly in the role and influence of young people and the level of genuine cross-sector partnership working.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime Prevention

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Crimestoppers in Northern Ireland. [207752]

Paul Goggins: Crimestoppers is an extremely valuable support to the police, providing a confidential service to people to report matters that assist the police at a local level. Since November 2007, the PSNI have seen a steady increase in the number of actionable calls received via this number.

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will consider introducing dispersal orders in Northern Ireland. [207672]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office is currently reviewing its Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland and tackling antisocial behaviour will remain a key theme within it. The revised strategy will set out various options for dealing with community safety matters, including the potential for considering new powers, within a package of new community safety measures.

PSNI: Manpower

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* regular, *(b)* full-time reserve and *(c)* part-time reserve police officers of each (i) rank, (ii) sex and (iii) religion were based in Belfast North constituency in each of the last 10 years. [207679]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The following table details the requested information since 2001 without community background information.

Belfast North District Command Unit was formed in April 2001 therefore eight years information is available only.

Community background information of employees within the Police Service of Northern Ireland is retained for monitoring purposes only and breaking down this information into smaller groups could reveal personal sensitive information for an individual and the organisation would therefore be in breach of Part III 16 (2) of the Fair Employment (Monitoring) Regulations (NI) 1999.

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
Rank	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
Regular																
Chief Super-intendent	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Superintendent	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Chief Inspector	4	1	5	—	3	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	6	—	4	—
Inspector	14	—	12	—	12	4	11	2	11	2	10	1	16	—	13	3
Sergeant	51	8	49	6	38	9	38	9	35	9	34	7	45	9	44	12
Constable	268	38	253	37	218	63	204	72	187	69	176	55	232	45	234	46
Full-Time Reserve	117	11	98	11	69	7	55	5	39	3	34	2	76	7	66	6
Part-Time Reserve	66	37	63	36	44	23	7	1	—	—	—	—	55	30	47	24
Constable Part-time	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	18	35	17	34	17	—	—	—	—
Sub total	522	95	482	91	386	106	349	107	310	101	289	83	431	92	409	92
Total	617		573		523		501		492		456		411		372	

Note:
M = Male
F = Female

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Part-Time Employment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has paid in compensation to part-time members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in each year since 2001. [208329]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

The amount of compensation paid to part-time reserve members in each financial year since 2001 can be found in the following table:

	Amount paid (£)
2001-02	17,675
2002-03	3,740
2003-04	5,000
2004-05	3,260
2005-06	11,723
2006-07	115,250
2007-08	46,750
Total	203,398

HEALTH

Allergies

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were hospitalised with allergic reactions, broken down by *(a)* type of allergy, *(b)* primary care trust and *(c)* sex, in each of the last five years. [208069]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people hospitalised with allergic reactions is not collected.

Arthritis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to provide to nurses in primary care settings training to (i) identify, (ii) diagnose and (iii) assess patients with rheumatoid arthritis; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [209111]

Ann Keen: Education and training for all nurses is the responsibility of their employers in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs. There have been no recent representations about the training of nurses in rheumatoid arthritis.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department have responsibility for inflammatory arthritis policy and implementation, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [209115]

Ann Keen: We currently do not have a dedicated policy team specifically for inflammatory arthritis.

Asthma: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 years were hospitalised for asthma in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* socio-economic background and *(d)* primary care trust. [208070]

Ann Keen: Information is not available on admissions to hospital by socio-economic background. Tables have been placed in the Library which show the number of admissions for children under 18 by age, sex and primary care trust.

Cancer: East of England

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with the East of England Strategic Health Authority on the accuracy of information used in the consultation on head and neck cancer services in Ipswich Hospital; [207901]

(2) if he will ask the East of England strategic health authority to investigate the accuracy of the information provided by Suffolk primary care trust in the consultation on head and neck cancer services in Ipswich hospital; [207902]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Minister for the East of England on the impact of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in that region, with particular reference to the effects on patients in Ipswich and the surrounding areas. [207907]

Ann Keen: The Department has not had any discussions with the East of England strategic health authority (SHA) regarding the accuracy of information used in the consultation over the head and neck cancer services in Ipswich hospital and has not had any discussions with the Minister for the East of England (Barbara Follett) in relation to the impact of proposals for the reorganisation of oncology services in that region.

The issues that the hon. Member raises are for the local national health service and the Anglia Cancer Network. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the NHS for commissioning and funding appropriate health services for their resident populations. The hon. Member may therefore wish to discuss his concerns with the chief executives of Suffolk PCT and East of England SHA.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trusts are able to commission head and neck cancer services from units that are not considered compliant with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Improving Outcomes Guidance. [207874]

Ann Keen: We would not expect commissioners to commission cancer services from trusts that are not compliant with Improving Outcomes Guidance.

Improving Outcomes Guidance was produced by clinical experts. The guidance sets out recommendations on how services for cancer patients should be organised to ensure the best outcomes for patients.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated by the NHS for lymphoedema in the last five years. [207875]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to provide funding to deal with the side effects of cancer treatments, with particular reference to lymphoedema; [207876]

(2) gives to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to assist in planning for dealing with the side effects of cancer treatment, with particular reference to lymphoedema; [207877]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that hospitals follow-up treatment of cancer patients to detect late effects of cancer treatments, with particular reference to lymphoedema. [207878]

Ann Keen: The Department does not provide specific funding or support for strategic health authorities or primary care trusts for dealing with the side effects of cancer treatment, including lymphoedema. It is for local trusts to determine the services required by their local population and commission these.

However, the "Cancer Reform Strategy" published in December 2007, recognised that the services and support available to those living with and beyond cancer needs to be improved and announced the establishment of a new National Cancer Survivorship Initiative to deliver this. Copies of the "Cancer Reform Strategy" are available in the Library.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who has responsibility for deciding whether a head and neck cancer unit is compliant with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Improving Outcomes Guidance. [207903]

Ann Keen: The cancer action team confirms whether or not a head and neck cancer unit is compliant with the Improving Outcomes Guidance.

In addition, through the National Cancer Peer Review Programme, cancer networks' services are assessed against a series of measures related to each set of Improving Outcomes Guidance. This process provides a means to assess the quality of cancer services provided by each cancer network and ensure all areas are brought up to the level of the best.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account is taken of advice given by the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists when formulating policies relating to head and neck cancer. [209883]

Ann Keen: The British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists was stakeholders in the development of guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on "Improving Outcome in Head and Neck Cancers". The Guidance was published in 2004.

Stakeholders are consulted throughout the guidance development process. They are involved at the beginning of the process when the scope of the guidance is being established and in commenting on the draft versions of the guidance.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the commissioning by primary care trusts of head and neck cancer services from *(a)* head and neck cancer units considered to be compliant with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Improving Outcomes Guidance and *(b)* other units. [209884]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts and their strategic health authorities to determine the configuration of services which best meets the needs of their community. Commissioners and providers when commissioning cancer services will be expected to have due regard to any guidance and recommendations provided by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure the best outcomes for their patients.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Dr. Gibson: To a[illegible]e Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his [illegible]partment is taking to ensure that primary care practitioners receive appropriate resources to diagnose and treat peripheral arterial disease; [208669]

(2) what mechanisms his Department is considering to improve the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial disease in primary care. [208670]

Ann Keen: On 1 April 2008, the Department published 'Putting Prevention First', copies of this publication are available in the Library. This confirmed that a programme to reach everybody between the ages of 40 and 74, to check their vascular risk and provide them with an individual assessment, would be both clinically and cost-effective.

The next step is to develop an implementation and delivery programme with key stakeholders. Stakeholders will play a crucial role in helping to formulate proposals for the vascular check programme. We expect that general practice will have an important role in delivery but other organisations, such as pharmacies, are also likely to be involved.

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is a vascular condition, although not identified in the proposed programme, and the risk factors for PAD are the same as for other vascular diseases. Vascular checks will make a significant contribution to tackling PAD through prevention and early detection.

We are committed to making extra resources available to primary care trusts from 2009-10 to fund this programme, both to cover the costs of the risk assessments themselves and to fund the costs of the consequent interventions. Once fully implemented, this is likely to be in the order of £250 million per annum.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women in Bexley received cervical smear tests within the recommended period of time in the last 12 months. [208644]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 617-36W.

Childbirth

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into the causes and treatment of premature birth; and if he will make a statement. [209164]

Dawn Primarolo: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have a long record of investment in research concerned with premature birth. This has included for example the support the Department's Policy Research Programme gives to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU). Much of the NPEU's work on the compromised foetus and baby focuses on or is linked to pre-term birth, as is a series of reviews the NPEU is undertaking on infant mortality. The MRC is funding a number of relevant projects, including a £3 million population-based study of survival and later health status of infants of 25 weeks gestation or less; and a £2.4 million randomised controlled trial investigating which oxygen saturation level should be used for very premature infants.

Implementation of the Government's health research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" and the establishment of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) means there are now more research programmes and significant new funding opportunities for researchers. The NIHR has so far funded four new research projects to do with premature birth and the national health service Biomedical Research Centres formed last year plan to spend £3 million on relevant research over the next five years.

Community Nurses

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2163W, on community nurses, when the interim evaluation report for the Family Nurse Partnership Pilot Project's first year will be published. [207079]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* We expect the interim evaluation report for the Family Nurse Partnership programme to be published on the research website for the Department of Children, Schools and Families shortly.

Diabetes

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist people with diabetes who are unable to insure against critical illness. [207379]

Ann Keen: The decision whether to take out private medical insurance and/or critical illness cover is a personal one.

We continue to support the NHS in implementing the standards set out in the "National Service Framework for Diabetes" to improve services for people with diabetes. Copies of the framework are available in the Library.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) has identified an extra 200,000 people with diabetes in the last two years, who are now able to accept the support and treatment to manage their condition. QOF data also shows that the number of people meeting targets for blood pressure, HbA1c (blood glucose) and cholesterol is rising year on year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts had a scheme to identify those at risk of diabetes in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006; [208299]

(2) what NHS schemes exist in Leicestershire to help diagnose those at risk of diabetes; [208300]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of the use of technology to detect patients that are at risk of developing diabetes, in the light of research led by Dr. Tim Holt. [208308]

Ann Keen: We do not collect data on the number of primary care trusts operating a scheme to identify those at risk of diabetes.

The Prime Minister announced in January the Government's intention to develop a programme to assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. 'Putting Prevention First', published on 1 April 2008, showed that a vascular checks programme for those aged between 40 and 74, would be both clinically and cost-effective. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

There is already a considerable amount of prevention and risk management activity taking place in general practice in relation to individual vascular conditions such as chronic heart conditions and diabetes. The vascular checks programme will ensure that all those between the age of 40 and 74 have the opportunity of a vascular check which will include the identification of those at risk of Type 2 diabetes and also a glucose test where appropriate. We are now working with stakeholders to design the programme for delivery from 2009-10.

The NHS is already making use of technology to detect patients at risk of developing diabetes. Early identification of diabetes is a priority and is a key part of the National Service Framework for Diabetes. The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) has identified an extra 200,000 people with diabetes in the last two years, who are now able to accept the support and treatment to manage their condition. QOF data also show that the number of people meeting targets for blood pressure, HbAlc (blood glucose) and cholesterol is rising year on year.

Diabetes: Health Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of doctors do not design care plans for those with diabetes. [208301]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the Healthcare Commission's National Survey of People with Diabetes 2007 states that across all primary care trusts 34 per cent. to 61 per cent. of people with diabetes had agreed a plan to manage their condition.

To respond to this the Department, in partnership with Diabetes UK and the National Diabetes and Kidney Support Team, has set up a self management working group to support the national health service in developing and spreading all the elements of self management, including care planning.

We are clear that the process of care planning is a key way of supporting people to self-manage their condition on a day-to-day-basis, and that all people with diabetes should have the opportunity to be equal partners in their care.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are made by primary care trusts to provide emotional and psychological support for adults with diabetes. [208302]

Ann Keen: Decisions about the provision of emotional and psychological support for adults with diabetes are for local primary care trusts. However, we recognise the importance it has in enabling people with diabetes to self-manage their condition on a day-to-day basis. The Department of Health has therefore begun work in collaboration with Diabetes UK to identify what needs to be done to enable the NHS and local care services to meet the psychological and emotional needs of all people with diabetes to support self care.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist for those with diabetes who exhibit complications to be monitored by their local primary care trust. [208303]

Ann Keen: The "Quality and Outcomes Framework" has identified an extra 200,000 people with diabetes in the last two years, who are now able to access the support and treatment they need to manage their condition. QOF data also shows that the number of people meeting targets for blood pressure, HbA1c (blood glucose) and cholesterol is rising year on year.

The "Diabetes National Service Framework" highlights the importance of people with diabetes having annual checks. This provides the opportunity for the results of key test and measurements to be discussed, and for any complications to be identified as early as possible.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government's report on progress in attaining the national service framework standards for diabetes will be published. [208304]

Ann Keen: We are planning to publish our progress report on the National Diabetes Service Framework during summer 2008.

Diabetes: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage all primary care trusts to establish a programme for the early detection of diabetes; [208062]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts with a programme for the early identification of diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [208063]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced in January the Government's intention to develop a programme to assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. "Putting Prevention First Vascular Checks: risk assessment and management", published on 1 April 2008, showed that a vascular checks programme for those aged between 40 and 74, would be clinically and cost effective. Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

There is already a considerable amount of prevention and risk management activity taking place in general practice in relation to individual vascular conditions such as chronic heart conditions and diabetes. The Vascular Checks Programme will ensure that all those between the age of 40 and 74 have the opportunity of a vascular check which will include the identification of those at risk of Type 2 diabetes and include a glucose test where appropriate. We are now working with stakeholders to design the programme for delivery from 2009-10.

Doctors: Housing

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of junior doctors have been housed in NHS-provided accommodation in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west and *(d)* England since 1979. [208325]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the provision of accommodation for junior doctors in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the south-west and *(d)* England has cost the NHS since 1979. [208326]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of junior doctors' accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [209197]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors were provided with NHS-funded accommodation by his Department in each of the last five years. [209198]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Epilepsy: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support his Department provided for National Epilepsy week 2008. [207861]

Ann Keen: The Department has not funded the National Epilepsy week.

Health Professions: Foreigners

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of the consultation on proposals for managing applications for medical careers from medical graduates from outside the European Economic Area. [208209]

Ann Keen: In July 2008.

Health Services: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what correlation there is between the children's national service framework and the Children's Plan; what plans he has to review the former; and if he will make a statement. [208228]

Ann Keen: The "National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services" (the NSF) concentrates on the health and wellbeing of children, whereas the "Children's Plan: Building brighter futures" is about ensuring that Britain is the best country in the world in which to be a child. There will also be a Child Health Strategy, which will not supersede the NSF but be about ensuring the implementation of the standards already set out in the NSF. Increasingly, local authorities and primary care trusts will be judged on their implementation of the NSF. Copies of both the NSF and the Children's Plan are available in the Library.

Health Visitors

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors worked in the NHS in each year since 1997. [208458]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors employed by the national health service in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Health visitors employed in the NHS (England) as at September each year (headcount and full-time equivalent)

	Headcount	Full-time equivalent
1997	12,410	10,025
1998	12,572	10,068
1999	12,800	10,161
2000	12,827	10,046
2001	13,053	10,186
2002	12,774	9,912
2003	12,984	9,999
2004	13,303	10,137
2005	12,818	9,809
2006[1]	12,034	9,376
2007	11,569	9,056

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 232 headcount duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census.

Source:

Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been placed on mixed sex wards at *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Watford and *(c)* St. Albans hospitals since May 2006. [208460]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department is committed to reducing mixed sex accommodation to an absolute minimum. On those occasions where the need to treat and admit takes precedence over complete gender separation, everything possible should be done to maximise privacy and dignity.

Hospitals: Closures

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues to primary care trusts on ceasing to purchase services from hospital units earmarked for possible closure before the consultation on such closure has been concluded. [209885]

Ann Keen: This is entirely a matter for primary care trusts to determine.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether specific consent was obtained from the donor or donors of the human fibroblast cells used to clone animal-human hybrid embryos at Newcastle University. [209804]

Dawn Primarolo: We understand from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) that the university of Newcastle Upon Tyne, under licence R0179, are currently using human embryonic stem cells (derived from research project R0145) to create hybrid embryos. Research project R0145, carried out at the Centre for LIFE at Newcastle, involves deriving stem cells from poor quality embryos which are not suitable for treatment. Patients donating embryos to this research project would have given consent for their embryos to be used in stem cell research. It is a condition of the UK Stem Cell Bank Steering Committee that consent forms signed by donors of material to be used in the creation of stem cell lines unequivocally state that donors have no control over any future uses of stem cell lines derived from donated material.

In the future the group plan to use dermal fibroblasts (skin cells), donated by patients recruited by dermatologists at Newcastle, to create hybrids. The HFEA and Local Research Ethics Committee would need to approve the patient information and consent forms used for obtaining consent from these patients.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill contains provisions to require that explicit consent for the creation of human admixed embryos is obtained.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to publish the consultation into the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the Provision of Stoma and Incontinence Appliances in primary care; [209794]

(2) what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the revised proposals under Part IX of the Drug Tariff, concerning arrangements for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances in primary care. [209795]

Ann Keen: A further consultation "Proposed new arrangements on the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services in Primary Care", was published on 9 June 2008 and copies have been placed in the Library. The closing date for responses is 9 September 2008.

It had been intended that publication would take place at the end of May but the reclassification of the 5,000-plus items under review took longer than expected.

Lung Diseases

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations his Department has received on the incidence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; [209830]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to raise awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; [209831]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the potential for pulmonary rehabilitation and follow-on exercise classes to reduce the number of emergency hospital admissions for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [209832]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently considering advice from the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) External Reference Group on proposed markers of good practice from prevention through to end of life care. This advice will be considered by Ministers and options developed for implementation. These will include options for early diagnosis of people with COPD and raising awareness of the disease. There is good evidence that pulmonary rehabilitation and regular exercise can drive significant improvements in the health status of people with COPD, with subsequent reduction in the number of emergency hospital admissions.

Maternity Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part days NHS maternity units were closed to new admissions (i) because the unit had reached full capacity and (ii) for another reason in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [208424]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many diabetes specialist nurses there are in the NHS; [208305]

(2) what assessment he has made of research at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust on the effects on costs of employing more diabetes specialist nurses in accident and emergency centres; [208306]

(3) how many diabetes specialist nurses will be employed in the NHS in 2008-09. [208307]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of diabetes specialist nurses employed in the national health service is not collected centrally. Workforce planning is a matter for local determination as local NHS organisations are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local population.

It is vital that people with diabetes in hospital are identified and treated accordingly, and diabetes specialist nurses can play a valuable role in this. In March 2008 the National Diabetes Support Team published "Improving emergency and inpatient care for people with diabetes", which highlights the importance of the diabetes specialist team, including specialist nurses, in reducing length of stay and improving outcomes for people with diabetes.

Nurses: Lymphoedema

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the numbers of dedicated lymphoedema practitioner nurses. [208356]

Ann Keen: The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. However it is for local national health service organisations to commission training places and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

Nurses: Travel

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many miles travel expenditure NHS community nurses claimed on average in each year since 2000. [208722]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effect of rising fuel prices on NHS community service staff. [208723]

Ann Keen: The NHS Staff Council is keeping this under review. A joint sub group of the NHS Staff Council is currently working towards agreement. Guidance was issued in December as an interim measure until agreement can be reached.

Salt: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on public awareness campaigns on the health implications of excessive salt consumption in each of last 10 years. [207029]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency's public awareness campaigns on salt began in January 2004, and the total cost of the three phases of the campaign, which were undertaken between January 2004 and March 2008 was £15,227,000. This includes all campaign costs such as advertising, production, research, marketing, public relations, web and partner grants.

West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary of the temporary Chief Executive Officer of West Herts Acute Hospital Trust is; and if he will make a statement. [208622]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not held centrally. East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has advised that details of the Chief Executive's salary would be included in the annual report for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust which is due to be published in July 2008. However, the hon. Member may wish to raise this matter directly with the Chief Executive or Chair of the Trust.

More generally, national health service trusts may pay their staff remuneration and allowances, and employ them on such terms and conditions, as they consider appropriate. The Department introduced the pay framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts in 2006 and updated it in 2007. Both documents are available in the Library. Although the framework does not apply to NHS trusts, they are free to adopt its principles.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer from the Minister of State for International Development of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, what International Security Assistance Force funds have been made available for the building of a new mosque in Musa Qala; who is leading the project; and when the project will be completed. [209529]

Des Browne: The cost of the new Hanifi mosque being built just to the west of the centre of Musa Qala in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, has not yet been finalised, but it is estimated it will be between $70,000 and $150,000, funding for which will be provided by the International Security Assistance Force. This will be project managed by the Royal Engineers on behalf of the Provincial Reconstruction Team based at Lashkar Gah and the Afghan Ministry for Rehabilitation and Rural Development. It is expected to be completed in around six months.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British and Commonwealth service personnel have been killed in blue on blue friendly fire incidents in Afghanistan since 2001. [209586]

Des Browne: We believe five members of the UK armed forces have been killed as a result of blue-on-blue incidents in Afghanistan.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 661W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what infrastructure development and reconstruction the Royal Engineers have carried out in the last 24 months; and how many Afghan National Army engineers have been trained to operate independently. [209680]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between June 2006 and June 2008, the Royal Engineers in Afghanistan have been involved with a total of 216 reconstruction and development projects. These have been built by local Afghan companies, providing employment and livelihoods to the local population, but managed by the Royal Engineers on behalf of the provincial reconstruction team based at Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province. The following table lists the number, type, location and status of these projects.

		Location			
Type of project	*Status*	*Lashkar Gar*	*Gereshk*	*Sangin*	*Musa Qal'eh*
Education	Completed	6	4	1	0
	Ongoing	2	1	1	1
	Planned	0	4	0	1
Security and Rule of Law	Completed	20	4	1	0
	Ongoing	8	6	4	2
	Planned	5	3	1	1
Health	Completed	8	3	0	1
	Ongoing	1	1	0	1
	Planned	2	2	1	0
Roads	Completed	0	25	0	6
	Ongoing	2	1	1	1
	Planned	0	2	2	0
Mosques/Religious Centres	Completed	1	1	0	5
	Ongoing	1	1	1	1
	Planned	0	4	0	0
Other	Completed	42	11	5	2
	Ongoing	0	0	0	5
	Planned	0	24	9	0
Total Completed		77	23	7	7
Total Ongoing		14	10	7	11
Total Planned		7	39	12	2
Grand total		98	72	26	20

Training of Afghan National Army (ANA) military engineers is continuing, although mentoring support from coalition forces is still provided to enable their operations.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 344W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, when he expects the investigation to conclude. [209886]

Des Browne: The investigation will be completed as rapidly as possible. However, a number of witnesses have yet to be interviewed and other aspects of the investigation by the Royal Military Police Special Investigations Branch are continuing. I cannot therefore be more precise about when the investigation will be concluded.

Armed Forces: EU Nationals

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the nationality rules are for members of other European Union countries serving in the UK armed forces. [209143]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The nationality eligibility rules for employment in the UK armed forces state that to be accepted, an applicant must have been at all times since birth a British or Commonwealth citizen, or a Republic of Ireland national. A waiver of these requirements may be granted, in exceptional circumstances, to applicants who were not British or Commonwealth citizens or Republic of Ireland nationals at birth, but had become so at the time of their application.

The last comprehensive review of nationality eligibility criteria examined the position with regard to EU citizens. Because of the specific nature of armed forces employment, it was decided not to allow EU citizens to become members of our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will publish the monthly housing reports produced by the Defence Estates Housing Directorate in each of the last 12 months; [204005]

(2) if he will publish the results of the latest customer satisfaction survey carried out by Modern Housing Solutions. [204006]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Estates housing report for March 2008 (the latest available) together with the latest occupant satisfaction survey are published on the Modern Housing Solution website at

www.modernhousingsolutions.com

under the heading 'Progress Information for Occupants'.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 937W, on armed forces: influenza, when the Pandemic Influenza Guide was published; which *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* other interested parties he consulted in producing the guide; to whom the guide has been distributed; if he will place a copy in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [209294]

Derek Twigg: The development of the MOD Pandemic Flu Guide (renamed the Framework in 2008) has been an ongoing activity since November 2005, and was first issued in May 2006. The requirement is to ensure that the MOD has a robust approach to its contingency planning to deal with the general pandemic risk and to reinforce this with selective measures to protect critical activities or those judged to be especially at risk. As the Guide/Framework is a live document, it has been subject to continuous updates and revisions, with the latest version issued in February 2008. Updated versions of the Framework (together with supporting leaflets) are distributed to top level budget holders (TLBs) and trading funds as and when these become available. A "work in progress" copy of the Framework (and some supporting leaflets) has recently been placed in the Library.

Development of the MOD Pandemic Flu Guide/Framework has been undertaken by the Flu Sub-Group (composed of expertise drawn from different organisations across the Central TLB and wider Defence community) and the participation of MOD personnel (civilian and military) in activities, work streams and exercises co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS). MOD personnel also support the Department of Health (DH) and Health Protection Agency (HPA) Programme Board in creating the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. Taken together this involvement ensures MOD influenza pandemic planning accords with cross-Government influenza contingency preparations.

Armed Forces: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on helicopters on operations, where training will be conducted as part of the helicopter support initiative. [207651]

Des Browne: The European Defence Agency, with support from the UK and France, is currently analysing member states' training capacities and training needs to assess the potential added value of multi-national initiatives. At this stage it would be premature to speculate on solutions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 15th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1580W, on Bosnia and Herzegovina: peacekeeping operations, whether *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany and *(c)* Italy will backfill the requirement for the Ready Battalion Operational Reserve Force while the UK deploys the 2 Battalion, The Rifles to Kosovo. [207108]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no requirement to backfill the Operational Reserve Force 'Ready' Battalion while 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, is deployed to Kosovo.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 14th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1580W, on Bosnia and Herzegovina: peacekeeping operations, what the operational language is for those units serving in the multi-national NATO/EU pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force. [207111]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The operational language for the NATO/EU pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force is English.

Climate Change

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of each of the research reports commissioned by his Department on climate change in the last five years. [203568]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: In the last five years the MOD has produced four unclassified reports:

Impacts of sea level rise based on current state-of-the-art modelling;

Environmental stresses from detailed climate model simulations for the middle east and Gulf region;

Briefing document on environmental stresses from climate change; and

Report on changes in storm surges from detailed model simulations for the Bay of Bengal.

I shall place copies of the reports in the Library of the House.

Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will publish the revised defence planning assumptions. [209805]

Des Browne: The Defence Planning Assumptions are currently under review as part of the Department's routine strategic planning cycle. I expect this work will be completed this year and the results published in the next Defence White Paper in the usual way.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [208759]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208382]

Derek Twigg: Some 52,500 individuals are recorded as having received a bonus in the principal Ministry of Defence bonus award process for civilian staff in 2007. This number is broken down as follows:

	Thousand	*Percentage*
Male	20.5	39.1
Female	32.0	60.9
Ethnic minority	1.3	2.6
British—White	43.6	82.9
Not declared/recorded	7.6	14.5
Disabled	2.5	4.8
Not disabled	28.0	53.3
Not declared/recorded	22.0	41.9
Not heterosexual	0.3	0.6
Heterosexual	23.9	45.5
Not declared/recorded	28.3	53.9

HMS Superb

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for HMS Superb to dock and have her damage assessed before returning to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [208735]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An initial assessment of the damage has been made while HMS Superb has been alongside in Aqaba, Jordan. HMS SuperB has been judged to be safe to sail but will be undertaking further assessment alongside in Crete before completing her transit to the UK.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been *(a)* captured, *(b)* arrested and *(c)* detained by British forces during the conflicts in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [209309]

Des Browne *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The Ministry of Defence is undertaking a review of its detention records. I will write to the hon. Member when the review has completed.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British and Commonwealth service personnel have been killed in blue on blue incidents in Iraq since 2003. [209585]

Des Browne: We believe eight members of the UK armed forces have been killed as a result of blue-on-blue incidents in Iraq since 2003.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions the Study for the Inquiry into National Recognition of our armed forces met representatives of service museums; and what the dates were of those meetings. [209813]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The study for the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces met representatives of the Service museums on the following occasions and dates:

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard: during a visit to Portsmouth Naval Base on 16 January 2008;

National Army Museum: during a visit to the National Army Museum Chelsea on 7 March 2008

and

RAF Museum: at a meeting with the RAF Museum Director (Dr Michael Fopp) in Portcullis House on 4 March 2008.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 692W, on the National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry, what timescale he has set for a full response to the National Recognition Study Report. [209818]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government aim to provide a full response to the National Recognition Study report to Parliament before the House rises for the summer recess on 22 July.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* X berths and *(b)* Z berths are available for use by the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines between the Red Sea and the UK. [208734]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no X or Z berths between the Red Sea and the UK as these types of berth are only located within the two submarine base ports of HMNB Devonport and HMNB Clyde.

Special Nuclear Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times special nuclear vehicles were used on the road between April 2007 and March 2008; and how many special escort group operations there were in the same period. [209339]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested, as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

USA: Armed Forces

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 379W, on the armed forces: USA, on how many occasions since 1997 visiting US personnel have been *(a)* prosecuted under UK law and *(b)* dealt with under US law for offences committed in the UK; and what information his Department holds on the results of such cases dealt with by the US military authorities. [208919]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not hold records of legal cases involving US visiting force personnel.

War Pensions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reintroduce a link between war pensions and average earnings; and if he will make a statement. [208457]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 176W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Targets

11. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effect of relevant targets set by her Department on police priorities; and if she will make a statement. [208953]

Mr. McNulty: In developing our new public service agreements—which came into effect in April—the Home Office and Ministry of Justice consulted extensively with the police service over the impact that previous PSA targets had had on police priorities. The new objectives on crime reduction and criminal justice reflect that feedback and place a renewed emphasis on the police and their partners identifying and addressing specific local priorities while ensuring that the most serious crimes and criminals are tackled as a matter of course in all areas.

Tackling Gangs Action Programme

12. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the lessons learned from the Tackling Gangs Action programme. [208954]

Mr. Coaker: TGAP demonstrated how a relatively small amount of money—£2 million—can drive focused cross-agency action to deliver prevention, risk management, community reassurance and enforcement—and make a real difference on the ground. Further details are available in TGAP's monitoring report and in 'Tackling Gangs: A Practical Guide' on the Home Office's Crime Reduction website.

Communications Data Storage

13. **Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to put in place measures for the comprehensive storage of national telephone and e-mail communications data. [208955]

Mr. McNulty: We are considering how we ensure that we can continue to have access to communications data in the light of changing technology, and are developing proposals for the Communications Data Bill announced in the Government's draft legislative programme.

These proposals relate to communications data—not the content of communications.

Local Policing

14. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she plans to consult local communities on local policing priorities. [208957]

Mr. McNulty: Since April 2008 every area in England and Wales has had a neighbourhood policing team. These teams meet with their local communities to agree the local priorities for action. And in the Green Paper that I will publish shortly, I will set out our plan to introduce a policing pledge which will set out a national standard on what people can expect from the police, underpinned in each area by a set of local priorities agreed by people in each neighbourhood.

Immigration

15. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to review the adequacy of the immigration arrangements to the UK for New Zealand nationals. [208958]

Mr. Byrne: We are delivering the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 40 years.

We will listen hard to the views of the New Zealand Government and I met with the High Commissioner (Derek Leask) last week to ensure their views are taken into account.

Police: Fitness

16. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of levels of physical fitness of serving police officers. [208960]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the physical fitness of serving police officers lies with the chief officer of each force.

We are continuing to work with the police service to promote the good health of serving police officers.

Police Officers: Patrol

17. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase the amount of time that police officers spend on patrol. [208961]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are committed to delivering a visible and reassuring police presence. Since April there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area.

The Home Secretary has already accepted Sir Ronnie Flanagan's recommendation to remove lengthy stop and account forms, and will also consider more proportionate and streamlined stop and search and crime recording forms.

We are continuing with consultation on reforms of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, streamlining the Criminal Justice process, and investing £50 million in new mobile data technology.

The forthcoming Green Paper will outline further measures for strengthened local accountability, further bureaucracy reduction, greater flexibility for officers and staff, and a reformed performance framework that will reflect local priorities.

Domestic Violence Courts

18. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the introduction of specialist domestic violence courts. [208962]

Mr. Coaker: In the 'Tackling Violence' action plan (published February 2008), we committed to doubling the number of specialist domestic violence courts to 128, ensuring that even more sensitive domestic violence cases are heard in a safe court environment. In April this year, the number accredited by the national programme had increased to 98, with further expansion planned later this year.

Asylum: Afghanistan

19. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Government policy is on asylum seekers from Afghanistan. [208963]

Mr. Byrne: The United Kingdom considers all asylum and human rights claims, including those from Afghan nationals, on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN refugee convention and the European conventions on human rights (ECHR) and against the background of the latest available country information.

101 Calls: Cardiff

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for discontinuing funding for the 101 number in the Cardiff pilot area. [203603]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 May 2008]:* While the Government recognise the benefits that have been demonstrated by the 101 single non-emergency number service in the initial live areas, it is vital that we target our resources to those areas which will have the greatest impact and which will contribute most to the protective of the public and security of the country. It was on that basis and in the context of significant pressure on resources and competing policing and security priorities, it was decided not to continue to fund centrally the ongoing live operation.

However, the Home Office is continuing to provide funding for the national 101 infrastructure, which the Cardiff Partnership are continuing to use, and we have also made available a 101 Delivery Toolkit which captures the learning and good practice from 101 service to date. It is hoped that this toolkit will help and encourage local areas to embed the benefits in local services and to develop locally funded 101 services wherever possible.

The annual cost to the Home Office of maintaining the national 101 telephony infrastructure will be £950,000. This funding will ensure that the 101 number continues to be available for all local areas to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 services, informed by the benefits and good practice successfully demonstrated in the initial live areas.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime Prevention

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat alcohol-induced crime. [208943]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have made a number of such assessments. These include: the assessment of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder, the evaluation of a multi-agency approach to tackle violence and disorder in the night-time economy, as well as reviewing the results of the British Crime Survey.

The Home Office conducted an assessment of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder. A report: The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: an evaluation (2008) by Hough et al was published early this year.

The main conclusion to be drawn from the evaluation is that licensing regimes may be one factor in effecting change to the country's drinking culture and its impact on crime—but they do not appear to be the critical factor. The overall volume of incidents of crime and disorder remains unchanged, though there were signs that crimes involving serious violence may have reduced. There was, however, evidence of temporal displacement, in that the small proportion of violent crime occurring in the small hours of the morning had increased.

In surveys, local residents were less likely to say that drunk and rowdy behaviour was a problem after the change than before it, and the majority thought that alcohol-related crime was stable or declining. Police, local authorities and licencees generally welcomed the Act and the new powers it gave them once implementation teething problems were solved . In general they did not think that alcohol related crime had got worse.

In July 2007 the Home Office published findings from an analysis of data collected from a self-selecting sample of police forces (Violent crime, disorder and criminal damage since the introduction of the Licensing Act (2007) Babb et al).

The key finding from this study was when comparing the 12-months before and after the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, there was a 1 per cent. fall in recorded incidents involving violence, criminal damage and harassment; and a 5 per cent. fall in serious violence. The findings also showed the timing of offence had changed; with a 1 per cent. increase in offences occurring between 6pm and 6am, and a steep rise in the small minority of offences occurring in the small hours between 3am and 6am—an increase which was large in proportional terms (25 per cent.) but relatively small with regards to the number of incidents (236).

The evaluation of a multi-agency approach to tackle violence and disorder in the night-time economy was assessed in the 'Reducing alcohol-related violence and disorder: an evaluation of the TASC (2003) Macquire et al report. This report presented findings from a police-led multi-agency scheme launched in July 2000 under the Home Office with the aim of reducing alcohol-related crime and disorder in central Cardiff.

The findings from this study showed that there were significant reductions in violent and disorderly incidents occurring in or just outside individual pubs and clubs which were the subject of carefully targeted policing operations. The most successful of these, lasting eight weeks, was followed by reductions of 41 per cent. and 36 per cent. in such incidents in and around the two clubs targeted. The reductions were also sustained over time.

The Home Office also monitors the levels of alcohol-related violent crime and the perceptions of alcohol crime on an annual basis via the large-scale British Crime Survey (BCS). The results show that in 2006-07 46 per cent. of victims of violent crime perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol; a similar proportion to the previous year (45 per cent.). Additionally, the proportion of adults who perceived drunk and rowdy behaviour in public places to be a fairly/very big problem in the year ending December 2007 was the same compared to the year ending 2006.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat anti-social behaviour. [208951]

Mr. Coaker: Nobody should have to suffer antisocial behaviour. On 8 May the Home Secretary said we would not stand for it when she announced new measures to bear down on the most persistent offenders, tackle antisocial behaviour on public transport and make sure that the many tools and powers available to the agencies are being used appropriately and effectively.

Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. Indeed the NAO reported that 65 per cent. of people stop committing antisocial behaviour after intervention one rising to 93 per cent. after intervention three. Peoples' fear of antisocial behaviour has fallen since ASBOs were introduced.

Community Policing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the decision was taken to commission and run her Department's advertisements relating to neighbourhood policing teams; and who made the decision. [204932]

Mr. McNulty: Many decisions are made in the planning of the communications campaigns. It would be an unreasonable use of resources to be required to regularly comment on the decisions made to plan individual elements of campaigns.

Crime Museum

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss the Metropolitan Police's policy on access to its Crime Museum with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner; and if she will make a statement. [207681]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the curator of the Metropolitan Police Crime Museum is. [207246]

Mr. McNulty: I understand from the Metropolitan Police Service that the name of the curator of the Metropolitan Police Crime Museum is Mr. Alan McCormick.

Criminal Records: Disclosure of Information

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of records of offences committed outside the United Kingdom held by the UK Central Authority were made available to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and used in CRB disclosures in the most recent period for which figures are available; [206850]

(2) whether there are any data on categories of offences held by the UK Central Authority which may not be passed to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for use in CRB disclosures; [206851]

(3) whether the Government plans to make all records of crimes and offences held by the UK Central Authority available to *(a)* the Criminal Records Bureau and *(b)* other law agencies. [206855]

Meg Hillier: The UK Central Authority (UKCA-ECR) receives conviction notifications in respect of UK citizens who have been convicted of crimes in EU member states. Convictions that are recordable under the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000 are added to the Police National Computer (PNC) and are therefore available to the CRB for disclosure purposes.

Between 1 January 2008 and 30 April 2008, the UKCA-ECR received 1,016 notifications, 220 of which were for non-recordable offences. All recordable offences were added to the PNC. It is not known what percentage of these were subsequently used in disclosures.

Under Section 113A (3) of Part V of the Police Act 1997 criminal record certificates—standard and enhanced disclosures—must contain details of "every relevant matter" recorded in "central records". This means all convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer (PNC), including spent convictions. Any EU conviction information added to the Police National Computer by the UKCA-ECR would be included on CRB disclosures.

We have no current plans to extend these arrangements.

Emergency Calls: Public Telephones

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many emergency services calls to police were made from a public payphone in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South-West region and *(d)* England in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [208345]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Extradition: United Arab Emirates

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions the Government has had with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on bilateral extradition arrangements; what agreements are in place with the UAE; whether these are under the terms of the Extradition Act 2003; and if she will make a statement. [208181]

Meg Hillier: A bilateral UK/UAE extradition treaty was signed by the then Home Secretary and the UAE Minister of Justice on 6 December 2006; instruments of ratification were exchanged on 3 March 2008; and the treaty came into force on 3 April. However, before extradition can be operated in a general way and without a special arrangement between the two countries it is necessary to designate the UAE under Part 2 of the Extradition Act 2003. This requires secondary legislation under the affirmative resolution procedure, and debates in each of the Houses of Parliament are scheduled for 10 June. The provisions of the treaty are consistent with those in the Act.

Currently the UK has extradition arrangements with the UAE for some categories of offence covered by international conventions, for example the Vienna Convention against drugs. The Extradition Act 2003 also enables "ad hoc" extraditions to take place if a special arrangement is set up. The designation of the UAE under the Extradition Act 2003 as a part 2 territory will be an improvement on the current arrangements, as the extradition of persons wanted for any offence punishable in both states with at least 12 months' imprisonment will be possible, providing extradition is not barred by any of the safeguards in the Act.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre have taken to reduce demand for human trafficking in the UK in the last year. [208313]

Mr. Coaker: We recognise the need for a more sophisticated approach and understanding of demand factors if we are to successfully tackle human trafficking. To this end we have continued to develop both general and targeted awareness raising campaigns. In late 2007 we launched the "Blue Blindfold" campaign aimed at raising general awareness of human trafficking and are currently piloting a poster campaign in Westminster and Nottingham aimed specifically at those age groups more likely to be the purchasers of sex.

This builds on the innovative work undertaken as part of Operation Pentameter 1 and links in with the Government's current review into tackling the demand for prostitution. This six-month review began in January and is looking at both legislative and non-legislative options available.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police investigations of cases of human trafficking under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 there have been; how many have resulted in papers being passed to the Crown Prosecution Service; and if she will make a statement. [208956]

Mr. Coaker: Investigations into human trafficking cases are ongoing throughout the United Kingdom. To date this has resulted in the convictions of 84 people for trafficking offences with a number of cases still in the process of investigation.

It is important to note that traffickers may not necessarily be charged with specific trafficking offences depending on the facts of the case. Crown prosecutors may identify alternative offences and bring prosecutions under non-trafficking offences such as kidnapping or facilitating a breach of immigration law under section 25 of the Immigration Act 1971.

The Home Secretary will announce the outcomes from Operation Pentameter 2 after the completion of the operation.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking regarding source and transit countries to prevent child trafficking. [208311]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking encompasses a range of measures for tackling the trafficking of humans from source and transit countries. As part of our overseas programmes in developing countries we are working with our partners to raise awareness of the factors that make children vulnerable to trafficking and reducing the risk of children being trafficked.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) are working with their counterparts in source and transit countries in their joint efforts to disrupt and prevent human trafficking. The Home Office is leading a multi-agency group which includes the Metropolitan Police Service, UK Border Agency, London Councils, UKHTC, CEOP and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to co-ordinate a response to the issue of children from some European states being trafficked for criminal exploitation.

The Government have strengthened the entry clearance rules for issuing visas to children which has helped to prevent adults using the system to traffic children from source countries. Similarly as a result of the Action Plan, Airline Liaison Officers (ALO) are now better trained to identify cases of child trafficking and advise airline staff in over 30 countries to be aware of the signs of child trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Females

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's most recent estimate is of the number of women in the UK who were trafficked into the country for sexual exploitation purposes. [208337]

Mr. Coaker: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem although intelligence suggests there has been an increase in the trafficking problem over the last few years. In order to better understand the situation the Serious Organised Crime Agency along with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continue to work on improving intelligencer collection as a priority. The intelligence collected as part of the current Operation Pentameter 2 will assist with improving our understanding of the nature and scale of trafficking throughout the UK.

However, Home Office analysis suggests that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

Identity Cards: Aviation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether airline pilots with *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationality will be required to possess identity cards along with other airside staff ahead of the general population. [203834]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service will begin to issue the first identity cards to people working in sensitive areas (such as airport workers who work airside) from the second half of 2009. The precise details of the scheme have yet to be decided, but it is intended that, in due course, it should cover airport staff with a restricted zone pass, whether of British or foreign nationality and this could include some airline pilots.

Intelligence Services: Conditions of Employment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will put in place measures to ensure that security service personnel declare all additional paid employment. [209000]

Mr. McNulty: All security service employees are required to obtain approval from the Security Service Director of Establishments before undertaking any paid employment outside the service. For reasons of national security and personal privacy, details of approvals or refusals are not made public.

Islam: Broadcasting Programmes

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the police was of *(a)* the investigation of Undercover Mosque conducted by the West Midlands Police and *(b)* the subsequent legal case. [206768]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for West Midlands police.

Kidnapping: Children

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that copies of the leaflet issued by the Official Solicitor providing advice to the public on international child abduction and contact are made available in each police station; and if she will make a statement. [208260]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 456W.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 456W, on kidnapping: children, what guidance her Department has issued to police on the availability of International Child Abduction and Contact Unit information leaflets in police stations. [208341]

Mr. McNulty: International Child Abduction and Contact Unit information leaflets are a matter for the Official Solicitor and are available from the Child Abduction Unit of the Ministry of Justice, or can be found at:

http://www.officialsolicitor.gov.uk/os/icacu.htm.

The National Policing Improvement Agency, of which the Missing Persons Bureau is now a part, has not issued any guidance to police on the availability of these leaflets in police stations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 27 November 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr A. Hussain. [179332]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 12 May 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 23 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr P. Jeffries. [208634]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 June 2008.

Missing Persons

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police man hours spent investigating reports of missing people in the last 12 months. [204138]

Jacqui Smith: The number of police officer hours spent investigating reports of missing people in the last 12 months is not collected centrally.

An estimate based on Home Office research indicates that the number of persons that go missing each year is approximately 210,000. The Lancashire constabulary report 'mountains to molehills' estimates that the average cost of investigating missing person's cases is £1,000 per investigation. While it is likely that force costs in investigating missing persons cases will vary, an extrapolation of the figures produces an estimated cost of investigating reports of missing persons at £210 million per year.

Missing Persons: Leicestershire

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Leicestershire Constabulary in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12, *(c)* children aged between 12 and 16 and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [208291]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Leicestershire constabulary. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Motor Vehicles: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many respondents to the consultation on statutory charges for the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles supported the table of charges set out in Annex A of her Department's report on the consultation. [209259]

Mr. Coaker: The report on the consultation did not include a table of suggested charges. The table annexed to a letter sent out by the Home Office on 31 March went to various organisations and individuals who had been involved in the further work undertaken to consider the new charges and scenarios to which they would apply in the light of responses to the consultation. That work took account of the responses to the consultation and subsequent representations. The letter announced the Government's final conclusions.

Offensive Weapons: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of knife crime were reported in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [209387]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences that are knife-related from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of these data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in the main crime bulletin in July 2008.

Olympic Games 2012: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding will be provided for Dorset Police to undertake their responsibilities in relation to the forthcoming sailing events related to the 2012 Olympic Games. [207826]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Home Office made available £416,311 in 2007-08 to enable Dorset police to plan and prepare for security at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. It is in discussion with Dorset police about funding for the remaining years.

Police Authorities: Theft

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of items stolen from police authorities in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [208651]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

This is an operational matter for each Police Authority and Chief Officer.

Police Cautions: Worcestershire

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cautions were given to persons aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 years and over in each command area in North Worcestershire Division in each of the last 10 years. [206388]

Mr. McNulty: Data showing the number of reprimands and final warnings given to persons aged under 18 and cautions given to persons aged 18 and over in the West Mercia police force area are in the following table. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide data by command area in the North Worcestershire Division, as the data are not held to the level of detail requested.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of offenders cautioned[1, 2] in the West Mercia police force area, broken down by age group, 1997 to 2006[3, 4]

	10 to 17	*18 and over*	*All ages*
1997	2,113	3,753	5,866
1998	2,163	3,673	5,836
1999	2,013	3,284	5,297
2000	2,204	3,176	5,380
2001	2,828	3,557	6,385
2002	2,535	3,822	6,357
2003	2,473	3,778	6,251
2004	2,788	3,870	6,658
2005	3,202	4,545	7,747
2006	3,214	4,896	8,110

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Includes data for both simple and conditional cautions.

[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
CJEA-OCJR.

Police Custody: Mentally Ill

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the use of police custody suites to detain *(a)* the mentally ill or those held for their own protection and *(b)* the drunk and disorderly. [198615]

Mr. McNulty: With effect from 30 April 2008, a person may be transferred from one place of safety to another before an assessment has been carried out. This commences section 44 of the Mental Health Act 2007 and recognises the importance of using a police station on an exceptional basis and that when it is used, there is the ability to transfer a person to a more suitable place at the earliest available opportunity.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is looking to publish a report later this year on the use of police stations as places of safety under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Initial findings from the research show that 11,500 people were detained in police custody under section 136 during 2005-06. The average amount of time spent in police custody was 10 hours, with the vast majority of detainees leaving within 18 hours.

The arrests information held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences of 'being drunk and disorderly' are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection. The Home Office has not made any assessments of the use of custody suites in relation to drunk people. However we are aware that a significant number of people rendered incapable by alcohol are being referred for medical treatment instead of being detained in custody suites.

Police Stations: Theft

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of goods stolen from police stations in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* West Yorkshire, *(c)* South Yorkshire and *(d)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last three years. [208647]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

This is an operational matter for each Police Authority and Chief Officer.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in reducing the amount of paperwork required for applications for surveillance by police and others under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [206621]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The Home Office concluded an internal review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in 2007. It found that there were instances of unnecessary application of legislation and unnecessarily bureaucratic processes, including where the police service had imposed some bureaucracy on itself. This was mainly caused by uncertainties over what the law required. Since then the Home Office has been working with police and others to raise understanding of what RIPA is for and how it should be used appropriately. Some progress has already been achieved, including improved guidance for practitioners from the new ACPO Covert Investigation Steering Group and from a new statutory code of practice for the acquisition of communications data which came into force on 1 October 2007. Codes on covert surveillance and human intelligence sources are in the process of similar revision, including whether a set of standard forms on what RIPA requires would reduce misunderstanding and cut paperwork further. The Home Office has estimated that the reduction in form filling so far has freed up, at least, the equivalent of 24 man hours of police time every day of the year.

Police: Europe

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with European partners on the allocation of European Commission funding for a study examining the feasibility of the creation of an EU federal police force. [208549]

Jacqui Smith: There has been no discussion on this subject and we understand that the European Commission is not allocating any funding to such a study since it is of the opinion that there is no need for such a police force.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by *(a)* individual police forces in England and Wales and *(b)* her Department on hardware and software for obtaining, recording and managing activity-based costing data in each year since 2004. [200342]

Mr. McNulty: Police forces in England and Wales procure their own hardware and software for obtaining, recording and managing activity-based costing data. This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In July 2006, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities and the Home Office jointly published the Information Systems Strategy for the Police Service (ISS4PS). This provides a framework for police forces and their authorities, as well as organisations that deliver national projects and services to the Police Service, to plan information and communications technology services. This includes the development and implementation of systems in accordance with agreed standards, including those for software. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), together with its policing partners, is responsible for a number of existing national IT systems and for developing new ones, including the Police National Database being delivered by the IMPACT programme.

Police: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website www.neighbourhoodpolicing.co.uk in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200383]

Mr. McNulty: The Neighbourhood Policing Programme website went live in February 2006, replacing the National Reassurance Policing Programme (NRPP) website. It aims to:

keep stakeholders, partners and forces up to date on the latest Neighbourhood Policing developments:

act as a means of sharing documents, practice and case studies;

enable Neighbourhood Policing practitioners to access a range of materials to assist their implementation of Neighbourhood Policing; and

provide the public with basic information about Neighbourhood Policing and the ability to contact forces.

Since 31 March 2008, the Neighbourhood Policing website became the portal to National Police Training in England and Wales.

The website is currently managed by the Neighbourhood Policing Communications Manager and an assistant. Both members of staff work on the site as part of their other regular duties. In addition to these resource costs, the Neighbourhood Policing Team engage an internet management company on a monthly retainer of £525, to assist with the technical management, development and maintenance of the site.

Between February 2006 and 31 March 2008,

www.neighbourhoodpolicing.co.uk

has been accessed by 3,732,645 visitors including some from countries such as China, the United States of America, India and Australia.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* per notifiable offence in each year from 1992 to 1999, in each English county and Metropolitan area. [198528]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Police officers (FTE)[1, 2] per 100,000 population by police force area for 1991-92 to 1998-99[3]

Police force area	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*
Avon and Somerset	215	213	210	206	204	204	201	201
Bedfordshire	205	218	213	207	207	199	195	187
Cambridgeshire	187	187	185	183	178	185	181	177
Cheshire	194	197	196	198	204	209	208	210
Cleveland	264	264	255	257	254	262	267	254
Cumbria	241	244	240	238	227	233	236	228
Derbyshire	181	193	191	188	184	186	184	181
Devon and Cornwall	192	191	191	188	188	186	191	185
Dorset	195	196	194	192	186	188	191	185
Durham	229	227	228	223	231	240	249	258
Essex	196	198	197	195	192	196	192	189
Gloucestershire	218	212	213	212	205	204	197	198

Table 1: Police officers (FTE)[1, 2] per 100,000 population by police force area for 1991-92 to 1998-99[3]

Police force area	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*
Greater Manchester	275	274	270	273	269	269	270	264
Hampshire	188	191	190	188	192	197	198	196
Hertfordshire	201	201	198	200	199	204	200	196
Humberside	231	231	231	228	230	231	228	224
Kent	200	205	204	202	201	209	208	203
Lancashire	227	227	223	226	222	228	229	227
Leicestershire	206	200	200	201	207	210	213	215
Lincolnshire	202	201	200	198	187	194	192	183
London, City of[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	319	323	326	325	J9	298	298	299
Metropolitan police	393	388	385	380	376	364	353	349
Norfolk	186	189	189	182	181	184	183	175
North Yorkshire	194	193	183	179	181	182	185	180
Northamptonshire	197	203	198	194	192	195	192	185
Northumbria	241	247	249	250	255	256	264	269
Nottinghamshire	228	227	226	225	225	225	225	216
South Yorkshire	231	232	231	233	236	242	244	243
Staffordshire	207	207	210	212	209	209	216	211
Suffolk	186	192	187	183	173	177	178	177
Surrey	222	220	217	216	212	209	205	211
Sussex	209	210	209	202	210	210	202	190
Thames Valley	191	193	195	191	179	179	181	179
Warwickshire	202	207	212	204	196	185	184	179
West Mercia	185	186	186	183	181	183	178	178
West Midlands	264	264	266	267	271	269	272	279
West Yorkshire	244	241	240	240	244	247	244	236
Wiltshire	214	218	217	215	206	195	193	190

[1] Full-time equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Police strength data are available by financial year running from 1 April to 31 March. Population data are available by calendar year up to 1996 and thereafter on a financial year basis. Therefore, these figures are not comparable with those for later years.

[4] Officers per 100,000 population for city of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

Table 2: Total recorded offences per police officer (FTE)[1, 2] by police force area for 1991-92 to 1998-99[3]

Police force area	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Avon and Somerset	57	57	55	51	53	48	50	50
Bedfordshire	54	50	46	45	46	44	47	52
Cambridgeshire	53	52	49	54	56	47	53	56
Cheshire	42	42	39	38	33	30	31	32
Cleveland	57	53	57	55	55	43	47	46
Cumbria	38	37	36	35	36	31	36	35
Derbyshire	52	50	47	46	45	42	48	48
Devon and Cornwall	40	42	38	36	36	32	38	39
Dorset	41	40	43	42	39	34	41	40
Durham	48	49	47	43	37	32	32	31
Essex	40	39	36	34	35	31	33	37
Gloucestershire	52	53	52	48	47	43	44	46
Greater Manchester	56	52	49	47	47	44	53	55
Hampshire	48	45	43	41	41	36	37	40
Hertfordshire	35	33	33	33	32	29	29	30
Humberside	64	69	67	63	62	60	66	63
Kent	52	51	49	50	47	38	40	39
Lancashire	41	42	40	39	39	37	36	34
Leicestershire	53	55	54	51	49	41	47	47
Lincolnshire	41	44	40	40	41	36	41	41
London, City Of	8	7	6	6	6	6	9	11
Merseyside	32	30	29	33	33	30	33	36
Metropolitan Police	33	33	31	30	31	30	36	41
Norfolk	47	45	39	37	39	37	41	43
North Yorkshire	39	42	47	49	43	46	58	55
Northamptonshire	51	50	49	49	50	37	39	38
Northumbria	65	60	57	54	46	37	41	42
Nottinghamshire	71	68	66	65	62	55	61	62
South Yorkshire	46	52	52	51	49	41	42	42
Staffordshire	45	45	42	41	42	39	41	46
Suffolk	37	35	33	32	33	30	34	38

Table 2: Total recorded offences per police officer (FTE)[1] [2] by police force area for 1991-92 to 1998-99[3]

Police force area	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Surrey	31	31	28	26	26	24	26	26
Sussex	40	37	36	38	38	37	46	48
Thames Valley	52	52	48	46	47	42	47	51
Warwickshire	45	45	41	38	40	39	42	43
West Mercia	39	40	41	39	41	38	40	45
West Midlands	47	47	45	45	44	39	43	51
West Yorkshire	60	60	57	56	52	47	55	54
Wiltshire	35	33	30	29	29	29	33	34

[1] Full-time equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Police strength data are available by financial year running from 1 April to 31 March. Recorded crime data are available by calendar year up to 1997 and thereafter on a financial year basis. Additionally, the coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1989-99. Therefore, these figures are not comparable with those for later years.

Police: Mental Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were diagnosed with mental health problems in each year since 1997. [208065]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Police: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was allocated *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita for police services in (i) Suffolk and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [209411]

Mr. McNulty: Details of police force gross revenue expenditure are set out in the following tables.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Allocations for police services

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Total gross revenue expenditure[1] (£ million)	*Resident population[2] (million)*	*Total gross revenue expenditure[1] (£ million)*	*Resident population[2] (million)*	*Total gross revenue expenditure[1] (£ million)*	*Resident population[2] (million)*
Suffolk	98.38	0.68	110.51	0.68	115.44	0.69
England	9,649.32	49.86	10,910.87	50.09	11,749.23	50.43

	2006-07		*2007-08*	
	Total gross revenue expenditure[1] (£ million)	*Resident population[2] (million)*	*Total gross revenue expenditure[3] (£ million)*	*Resident population[2] (million)*
Suffolk	127.91	0.69	115.99	0.70
England	12,578.52	50.48	11,957.62	50.70

[1] Total gross revenue expenditure—actuals from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) statistics

[2] Resident population figures supplied by DCLG from ONS

[3] Total gross revenue expenditure—estimates from CIPFA statistics

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time must pass after a *(a)* British citizen previously living overseas, *(b)* British citizen previously serving overseas, *(c)* European Union citizen, *(d)* Commonwealth citizen and *(e)* citizen of a non-EU and non-Commonwealth country arrives in the United Kingdom from another country before they can apply to join the police force; and if she will make a statement about the reasons for the periods in each case. [208553]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) does not stipulate a residency criterion for any applicant to a police force in England and Wales. However, because of the difficulty with obtaining sufficient vetting information from abroad, the Association of Chief Police Officers advises forces to implement a three-year residency criterion on all applicants including citizens of the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Certainly it is the case that applicants who cannot be vetted will not be appointed.

Police: Speed Limits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police vehicles were recorded by speed cameras in each of the last three years, broken down by police force; how many police officers received notification of intended prosecution;

how many such prosecutions were *(a)* proceeded with and *(b)* subsequently dropped; and if she will make a statement. [209090]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not collected centrally.

The law allows vehicles being used for a police or other emergency service purpose to exceed a speed limit if observing it would be likely to hinder achievement of their purpose.

Police: Vale of Clwyd

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to improve policing in the Vale of Clwyd since 1997. [205296]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have acted to improve policing throughout England and Wales since 1997. Crime in Denbighshire CDRP, which includes the Vale of Clwyd, fell by 30 per cent. in the four years up to 2006-07.

Domestic burglary, for example, dropped by 8 per cent. in 2006-07 compared to the previous year.

Funding for the North Wales Police Authority has increased from £62.4 million in 1997-98 to £99.5 million in 2008-09, an increase of £37.1 million.

As at September 2007, North Wales police had 1,564 police officers—195 more than March 1997, and 745 police staff—269 more than March 1997.

The Government have further assisted the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing across England and Wales. North Wales 2008-09 funding for Neighbourhood Policing, including PCSOs, is £3.17 million, compared with £3.08 million in 2007-08, an increase of 2.7 per cent. There are now 13 Neighbourhood Policing teams in North Wales police, four in the central BCU that covers the Vale of Clywd, and 154 PCSOs. North Wales received a 'good' grading for their implementation of Neighbourhood Policing in the 2006-07 Police Performance Assessments.

Proceeds of Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many originating summonses for recovery order proceedings under Part 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were issued by the Assets Recovery Agency in Northern Ireland in each year of the agency's existence; [206955]

(2) how many proceedings for recovery orders under Part 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were concluded in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Northern Ireland by the Assets Recovery Agency in each year of the agency's existence; [206957]

(3) how many claim forms for recovery order proceedings under Part 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were issued by the Assets Recovery Agency in England and Wales in each year of the agency's existence. [206958]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not available in the form requested. The number of originating summonses/recovery order applications lodged by the Assets Recovery Agency in Northern Ireland was as follows:

	Number
2003-04	1
2004-05	2
2005-06	2
2006-07	6
2007-08	11

In relation to England and Wales, this information was not collected as part of ARA's management information and not retained in the form requested. It would not be possible to obtain this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Proscribed Organisations: Iran

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to remove the People's Mujahadeen Organisation of Iran from the list of proscribed organisations. [206948]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2008 deproscribing the PMOI was laid on 21 May 2008. In accordance with Section 123(4) of the Terrorism Act 2000, it will come into force the day following the signing of the Order, which will occur once the approval of both Houses has been obtained.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the time-scale is for lifting the proscription of the People's Mujahadeen Organisation of Iran. [206310]

Mr. McNulty: The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2008 deproscribing the PMOI was laid on 21 May 2008. In accordance with Section 123(4) of the Terrorism Act 2000, it will come into force the day following the signing of the Order, which will occur once the approval of both Houses has been obtained.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to comply with the decision of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Committee in respect of the People's Mojahadeen Organisation of Iran; when she plans to lay before Parliament an order to remove the organisation from Schedule 2 of the Terrorism Act 2000; and what Parliamentary procedure will apply to the order. [R] [207508]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2008 deproscribing the PMOI was laid on 21 May 2008. In accordance with section 123(4) of the Terrorism Act 2000, it will come into force the day following the signing of the order, which will occur once the approval of both Houses has been obtained.

Prostitution: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the police are taking to tackle teenage prostitution in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England; and whether there is a police unit dedicated to combating teenage prostitution in (i) Leicester and (ii) England. [208555]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's Guidance, 'Safeguarding Children in Prostitution', which was published in 2000, acts as a circular to the police and sets out how forces should respond to the issue of child prostitution locally. The police are responsible for leading the investigation and detection of these crimes, as well as working in partnership with other local agencies to ensure the early identification of those at risk and the provision of adequate support and protection. The guidance does not specify that each police force should have a unit dedicated to tackling child sexual exploitation, although all police force areas in England and Wales now have dedicated specialist child abuse investigation teams staffed by specialist sexual offences officers and rape prosecutors.

Where the need to tackle sexual exploitation involves issues that cross local boundaries, the Government have funded organisations such as the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre with the remit to tackle these issues and support local police forces.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much is planned to be spent on combating teenage prostitution in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England in 2008-09. [208558]

Mr. Coaker: No funding is allocated centrally by the Home Office for tackling teenage prostitution as it is primarily the responsibility of local partnerships to set local priorities and allocate funding accordingly.

DCSF are providing a grant of £50,000 to Barnardo's in this financial year for a project to pilot specialist services for children trafficked for sexual exploitation. They are also providing strategic funding of £135,000 over three years from this financial year to the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP).

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projects are run by the third sector to combat teenage prostitution in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* nationally. [208557]

Mr. Coaker: Local Safeguarding Children boards have a statutory obligation to ensure an effective response to child sexual exploitation. They must ensure that adequate protection and support is available for sexually exploited children and young people and that provision is in place to take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way. As part of this work, LSCBs are responsible for commissioning services to meet the needs of young people.

In many areas, third sector organisations play a key role in addressing the issue of sexual exploitation. Their role can include preventative work, intervention in cases where someone is at risk of or suffering sexual exploitation, the provision of therapeutic work with children and young people who have suffered sexual exploitation and long-term intervention. They can also play an important role in gathering information and evidence to support the prosecution of those exploiting the children and young people, working in partnership with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

We do not hold information centrally on the specific role played by third sector organisations in Leicester.

Public Order: Football

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of policing the sporting event at Wembley Stadium on 17 May was; who met the cost of the policing; and what proportion of the cost each met. [207882]

Mr. McNulty: The FA cup final on 17 May was policed by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The costs involved are an operational matter for the MRS.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 on civil liberties. [204345]

Mr. McNulty: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 puts under statutory control public body use of covert investigatory powers, including interception, access to communications data, surveillance and the use of undercover officers and informants. It covers the spectrum of interference with privacy, from the most serious—such as an intelligence agency planting microphones inside the house of a suspected terrorist—to local councils' use of telephone company subscriber data to identify and prosecute those involved in unhygienic meat supply or benefit fraud. It ensures that in the case of both ends of the spectrum, authorisation is consistent with the human rights principles of necessity and proportionality. As part of the statutory safeguards built into RIPA, the authorisation of covert investigatory powers is subject to the oversight of independent Commissioners who carry out their remit by regular inspection visits, reporting to the Prime Minister and publishing annual reports on their findings. The Act also establishes an independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal to hear complaints.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of safeguards contained within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [204346]

Mr. McNulty: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) balances public authority intrusion into individual privacy with the need to protect the wider public by ensuring that use of covert investigatory powers is authorised only when this is necessary and proportionate. As part of the statutory safeguards built into RIPA to make sure the powers are used properly, the authorisation of covert investigatory powers is subject to the oversight of independent Commissioners who carry out their remit by regular inspection visits, reporting to the Prime Minister and publishing annual reports on their findings. The Act also establishes an independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal to hear complaints. The Government welcome the role of the Commissioners and the Tribunal, co-operate fully in their inspections and investigations and would assess their work as effective. In his report for 2006, the Interception of Communications Commissioner noted that staff of the agencies he oversees "are always anxious to ensure that they comply both with the legislation and the appropriate safeguards". Copies of the Commissioners' reports are in the House Library.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pages of forms need to be filled in by the police to obtain Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 authorisation. [203824]

Mr. McNulty: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 provides a statutory framework for the use of a range of covert investigatory techniques by public authorities. There is currently no standard form, although the Act and related codes of practice set out the information that must be provided for the authorisations of the different investigatory powers. We are working with the police and other public authorities to reduce bureaucracy while ensuring that the appropriate level of information is provided.

Research Development and Statistics Directorate

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the academic and political independence of her Department's Research Development and Statistics Directorate. [201597]

Meg Hillier: In 2004 the Home Office Research and Statistics teams were embedded in Home Office businesses rather than being in a single directorate. Quality assurance and professional development for these teams are overseen by the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser.

Since July 2007 I have not received any representations about the academic and political independence about research, development and statistics in my department.

However, my department co-operated fully with a review of science in the Home Office and Ministry of Justice conducted by the Government Office for Science in late 2007. This review took evidence from the public and both internal and external Home Office stakeholders and is published at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/ho_moj_sciencere view .pdf.

A summary of the written evidence to this review provided by both internal and external stakeholders can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/dius/science/sciencereviews/ Completedpercent20Reviews/Homepercent20Office/page 44574 .html

In addition my Department has updated its procedures and release practices for National Statistics following the creation of the independent UK Statistics Authority as part of the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 and also published its response to the report 'Crime Statistics—An independent review' that was published in November 2006. This response can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rcsactionplan.pdf

Road Traffic Offences: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who was responsible for drafting the table of charges set out in Annex A of the Report on the consultation regarding statutory charges for the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles by police; and on what date Ministers agreed the table of charges. [209061]

Mr. Coaker: I take the reference to be to the table annexed to a letter sent on 31 March by the Home Office to various organisations and individuals who had been involved in the further work set up by the Government to consider levels of charges and the scenarios to which charges would apply following consultation on the charges which ended in July 2007. The table was drafted by Home Office officials and agreed by Ministers on 13 March 2008.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average cost of *(a)* installing and *(b)* maintaining a single speed camera for one year. [209073]

Mr. Coaker: Information on costs is not held centrally. This is a matter for the police and local safety camera partnerships. Costs in each area will vary over time and depend on the particular cameras selected for purchase, the numbers of each purchased and their subsequent deployment.

Terrorism

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation her Department has had with *(a)* the Lord Advocate and *(b)* other senior Scottish law officers on provisions within the Counter-Terrorism Bill in the last 12 months. [202939]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the wide-ranging consultation on the Counter-Terrorism Bill officials in the Scottish Executive were kept fully involved at all times. Official level meetings took place in Edinburgh on 3 May 2007 and 16 August 2007 to discuss the Bill as a whole. It is a matter for the Scottish Executive whether as part of their deliberations on the Bill they involved the Lord Advocate or the Solicitor-General for Scotland. However in the Lord Advocate's evidence to the Counter-Terrorism Bill Committee on 22 April, she made clear that she had been fully consulted.

I have recently discussed the issue of jurisdiction with the Lord Advocate. My noble and learned Friend the Attorney-General has also discussed this matter with the Lord Advocate.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met *(a)* the Lord Advocate and *(b)* other senior Scottish law officers to discuss provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Bill. [202940]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has not met the Lord Advocate or the Solicitor-General for Scotland to discuss the provisions in the Counter-Terrorism Bill. However, I have recently discussed the issue of jurisdiction with the Lord Advocate and my noble and learned Friend the Attorney-General has also discussed this issue with her.

The Scottish Executive have been kept fully informed regarding the Bill. Official level meetings took place with the Scottish Executive in May and August 2007 to discuss the proposals.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many production orders have been issued by each police force to media outlets under Schedule 5 of the Terrorism Act 2000; and what guidance she issues to police forces in considering obtaining such orders. [207766]

Mr. McNulty: There are no centrally held records on the number of production orders which have been issued. Therefore the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office does not issue guidance on obtaining production orders under Schedule 5. Schedule 5 provides detailed instructions for the police on how to apply for such orders.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced record checks were processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since 2002, broken down by police force area. [205119]

Jacqui Smith: The total number of standard and enhanced disclosures processed by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) each year since 2002 is shown in the following table.

Number of disclosures processed

Financial year	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total Standard	200,198	289,767	281,045	317,178	328,042	301,026
Total Enhanced	1,462,802	2,059,233	2,269,955	2,568,822	2,908,958	3,107511

The CRB cannot provide figures broken down by police force area. This is because standard disclosures are processed without any requirement for the police forces to conduct checks and several different police forces may be required to conduct checks in order to produce one enhanced disclosure.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Art Works

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which works of art from the Government Art Collection are located in *(a)* the personal ministerial residences of the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Prime Minister's offices in Downing Street. [205432]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

I am arranging for a list of the works of art to be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the expenditure of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office was between April 2007 to the date of the Department's closure; and whether resource accounts will be produced for the Department for that period; [189529]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 85W, on catering, how much was spent on food and drink by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office from April 2007 to the date of the Department's closure; [189524]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 85W, on catering, how much of the expenditure on drink related to products obtained from the Government wine cellar; [189525]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 85W, on catering, if he will break down that expenditure by subheading; [189526]

(5) pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 826W, on departmental records: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and further to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office Resource Accounts for 2006-07, how much the Deputy Prime Minister's Office spent on minor works, refurbishment, fittings and fixtures, in relation to the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House of the Deputy Prime Minister during 2006-07. [189523]

Mr. Watson: Information on expenditure by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in 2007-08 will be included within the published Resource Accounts for the same period. In financial year 2007-08, expenditure by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) on official hospitality was £6,796.33. All DPMO expenditure on official hospitality was made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety". Information on the break down of catering expenditure by sub-heading could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

No expenditure was incurred during 2006-07 on minor works, refurbishment, fittings and fixtures to the official ministerial residence formerly occupied by the former Deputy Prime Minister.

Epilepsy: Death

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died of epilepsy in each of the last five years. [207860]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died of epilepsy in each of the last five years. (207860)

The most recent figures available are for deaths registered in 2006. the following table contains the number of deaths where the underlying cause was epilepsy from 2002 to 2006 in England and Wales.

Number of deaths from epilepsy,[1] England and Wales, 2002-06[2]

2002	953
2003	1,075
2004	980
2005	1,061
2006	1,018

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 592W, on the Fairtrade initiative, (1) what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; [209017]

(2) what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [209018]

Phil Hope: Fairtrade products available for purchase in our restaurants and offered at official departmental meetings and engagements are listed as follows:

Available for purchase in coffee shop and restaurants

Tea

Sugar

Flapjacks

Fruit juice

Cookies

Chocolate.

Offered at official departmental meetings and engagements

Tea

Sugar.

The value of Fairtrade produce purchased in each of the last three financial years and the proportion of total revenue this represented can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average length of time for *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public to receive a ministerial response to letter correspondence was in each of the last 10 years. [208981]

Edward Miliband: The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Cabinet Office has published on an annual basis, a report on Departments and agencies performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence. Information for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 73WS.

Migration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimates he has made of levels of UK net migration in the latest year for which figures are available. [208959]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 9 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what recent estimate has been made of levels of UK net migration in the latest year for which figures are available. (208959)

In 2006 the difference between immigration and emigration, net migration, was estimated at 191,000 for the UK. This is the latest available official estimate.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of issuing, administering and collecting the penalty imposed by a penalty notice for disorder. [206763]

Mr. Straw: Available data from the Office of Criminal Justice Reform show that the average cost of issuing a penalty notice for disorder (PND) on the street is £33. Where penalty notices for disorder are issued in custody then there will be additional costs associated with taking the recipient to the police station and supervising him or her whilst there.

The lowest cost for taking a comparable case to court is estimated at £256.

Antisocial Behaviour: Sentencing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the prison population of new sentencing guidelines for breaches of anti-social behaviour orders. [208865]

Mr. Hanson: On 23 May the Sentencing Guideline Council issued a draft guideline "Breach of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order" for consultation. As part of the Government's consideration of the draft guideline we will make an assessment of the impact it may have on the prison population.

Approved Premises

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many bail hostels there are in *(a)* the Borough of Telford and Wrekin and *(b)* Shropshire; [209004]

(2) if he will introduce measures to consult *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* local authorities on the siting of bail hostels. [209005]

Mr. Hanson: I understand these questions refer to the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, which provides private rented accommodation. These are not bail hostels. There is one, four bed property in Shropshire located in the borough of Telford and Wrekin.

Local authorities are consulted on proposed addresses, as are the police and probation. Public consultation is not appropriate because the properties are the private homes of those living there and there is no change of use.

Crime

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal offences have been created since 1 May 1997; and how many have been abolished. [208947]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is across the entire legislative programme and for at least 10 years. It would necessitate considerable staff resources across Government and so cannot be provided except at a disproportionate cost.

Information relating to my own Department has already been given in answers by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle) to the hon. Member for Woking (Mr. Malins) on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 965 W, and on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 857-58W, and my answers to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1109-10W, and on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 163-65W.

My Department is currently considering how to improve its database relating to this kind of information.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on the Fairtrade initiative, (1) what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* regularly offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; [208883]

(2) how much and what proportion of revenue from his Department's staff catering facilities was accounted for by Fairtrade products in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [208884]

Maria Eagle: Catering services to meet Ministry of Justice requirements are contracted out. Within the objective of achieving best value, the Department continues to ensure that suppliers are actively encouraged to support and make use of Fairtrade produce.

The Fairtrade products available in staff catering facilities and at official departmental meetings and engagements are tea, coffee and chocolate together with tropical fruits like bananas.

The Department does not hold any records of the revenue or the proportion of revenue from fair trade products in each of the last three years. Information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

We will continue to encourage suppliers to support and make use of Fairtrade products.

Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received the Freedom of Information requests from *(a)* the hon. Member for New Forest East and *(b)* Mr Colin Smith respectively requesting that the home addresses of (i) all High Court judges and (ii) the three judges who heard the recent appeal case brought by the House of Commons should be published simultaneously with those of hon. Members; when he plans to respond; and if he will make a statement. [208809]

Mr. Straw: My Department has responded to both requests stating that to disclose the addresses would breach the privacy of the individuals and declining to publish them.

The expenses of none of these dwellings is paid for from public funds.

Hollesley Bay Prison

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what categories of prisoners are detained at Hollesley Bay prison; and what categories of prisoners were detained there in *(a)* January 2004 and *(b)* January 2007. [209881]

Maria Eagle: The prisoners detained at Hollesley Bay are Category D adult male prisoners and male young offenders. This was also the case in January 2004 and 2007. The criteria for acceptance at the prison have not changed.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1571W, on the Information Commissioner, how many cases submitted to the Information Commissioner have been awaiting *(a)* investigation and *(b)* classification for more than six months; and if he will make a statement. [208757]

Mr. Wills: In respect of complaints received at the Information Commissioner's Office, as of 31 March 2008, the number of complaints which had been waiting more than six months from receipt at the office before being assigned to a case officer was:

two data protection complaints; and

272 freedom of information complaints.

Currently the Information Commissioner's Office is classifying cases received in mid-April.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1571W, on the Information Commissioner, how many cases have taken more than six months between receipt and commencement of investigation by the Information Commissioner in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [208822]

Mr. Wills: In the 12 months from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, 222 data protection cases and 384 freedom of information cases have taken more than six months from receipt of a complaint at the Information Commissioner's Office to the start of investigation.

Juries: Allowances

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the financial loss allowance which jurors are entitled to be paid for loss of earnings will next be reviewed; by whom it will be reviewed; and whether consideration will be given to making special provision for jurors with dependants. [209685]

Maria Eagle: Jurors' allowances are reviewed annually by my Department, and are adjusted according to the consumer price index. Jurors who need to pay for care of dependants as a result of jury service may claim reimbursement under the financial loss provision in accordance with section 19 of the Juries Act 1974.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* prison staff, *(b)* probation staff and *(c)* offender managers working with life sentenced prisoners have completed training and other courses specifically designed for such work; and what the (i) duration and (ii) content outline of such courses was. [207896]

Maria Eagle: Training records for both prison and probation staff are not held centrally at present. To collate this information would involve contacting prisons and probation areas individually, and this would incur disproportionate costs.

Prison and seconded probation staff currently working with life sentenced prisoners have been able to access specifically designed training. The three day 'Life Administration Process' programme gave staff an understanding of the life sentence plan. 'Life in the 21st Century' was delivered over four days and focused on the life sentence plan and the management of life sentenced prisoners. Both courses were suspended at the end of 2007 due to changes to the sentence planning system.

During 2007-08 prison and probation staff (offender supervisors, offender managers and their line managers) each received 1.5 days training which looked at the offender management model and changes to sentence planning.

A new course, 'Managing Indeterminate Sentences and Risk' (MISaR) will be available from autumn 2008 to both prison and probation staff managing indeterminate sentenced offenders. This course places an emphasis on identifying, reducing and reporting on the risk these offenders may pose to the public.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales absconded from open prisons between April 2007 and April 2008. [209001]

Mr. Straw: 510 prisoners absconded from open prisons in England and Wales between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. This represents the lowest number of absconds since centralised recording of these statistics began in 1995.

Over 95 per cent. of those prisoners who have absconded return or are returned to custody. Prisoners are classed as "absconders" if they absent themselves from prison custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security restraints such as that provided by fence, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle, handcuffs or direct supervision of staff.

Absconders who are recaptured are referred to the police and CPS and are either prosecuted or if the Police/CPS decide not to proceed they will face internal disciplinary procedures where they can be given additional days in prison.

Prisoners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners who completed their sentence during 2007 served their entire sentence in prison. [209793]

Mr. Hanson: The latest information relates to the proportion of sentence served in custody for those determinate sentence prisoners discharged in 2006. This is detailed in the following tables.

Table 10.1: Average time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence, adults, England and Wales 2006

			Months			
			Average time served		*Percentage of sentence served*	
Length of sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2,3]	*Average length of sentence*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*
Adult males and females						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	65,900	16.5	9.0	8.1	55	49
Up to and including 3 months	16,300	1.9	1.0	0.8	49	42
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	17,900	4.7	2.2	1.9	48	41
Over 6 months less than 12 months	6,200	8.6	4.0	3.3	47	38
12 months	2,800	12.0	5.8	4.9	48	40
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	4,600	16.3	7.8	6.5	48	40
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	8,900	28.4	14.5	12.6	51	44
Over 3 years less than 4 years	2,700	42.5	23.0	20.2	54	47
4 years	1,400	48.0	29.4	26.6	61	55

Table 10.1: Average time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence, adults, England and Wales 2006

			Months			
			Average time served		*Percentage of sentence served*	
Length of sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2, 3]	*Average length of sentence*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*
Over 4 years up to and including 5 years	2,200	57.0	34.9	31.4	61	55
Over 5 years up to and including 10 years	2,700	83.9	51.3	46.3	61	55
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	300	157.2	95.4	86.6	61	55
Adult males						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	59,700	16.8	9.3	8.4	55	50
Up to and including 3 months	14,300	1.9	1.0	0.8	49	42
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	16,300	4.7	2.3	1.9	48	41
Over 6 months less than 12 months	5,500	8.6	4.1	3.3	47	38
12 months	2,500	12.0	5.9	4.9	49	41
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	4,100	16.3	7.9	6.6	48	40
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	8,200	28.4	14.5	12.6	51	44
Over 3 years less than 4 years	2,600	42.5	23.0	20.2	54	48
4 years	1,300	48.0	29.5	26.7	61	56
Over 4 years up to and including 5 years	2,100	57.0	35.1	31.6	62	55
Over 5 years up to and including 10 years	2,500	83.7	52.0	46.8	62	56
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	300	157.8	96.6	87.5	61	55
Adult females						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	6,200	13.3	6.6	5.8	49	43
Up to and including 3 months	2,000	1.9	0.9	0.8	48	43
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	1,600	4.7	2.2	1.9	47	40
Over 6 months less than 12 months	700	8.6	3.8	3.2	45	37
12 months	300	12.0	5.4	4.5	45	38
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	400	16.4	7.1	6.1	43	37
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	600	28.2	13.6	12.0	48	43
Over 3 years less than 4 years	100	42.7	21.8	19.5	51	46
4 years	100	48.0	28.2	26.2	59	55
Over 4 years up to and including 5 years	100	57.8	31.7	28.5	55	49
Over 5 years up to and including 10 years	200	86.6	43.5	40.1	50	46
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	20	147.1	75.8	69.8	52	47

Table 10.2: Average time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence, young offenders, England and Wales 2006

			Months			
			Average time served		*Percentage of sentence served*	
Length of sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2, 3]	*Average length of sentence*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*
Male and female young offenders						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	12,500	9.8	4.9	4.2	51	43
Up to and including 3 months	2,800	1.9	1.0	0.9	55	49
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	4,700	4.8	2.5	2.1	52	45
Over 6 months less than 12 months	1,900	8.6	4.2	3.5	49	41
12 months	700	12.0	6.1	5.3	50	44
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	700	17.0	8.3	7.2	49	43
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	1,000	28.4	13.6	11.7	48	41
Over 3 years less than 4 years	300	42.4	20.5	17.5	48	41
4 years	100	48.0	28.0	24.8	58	52
Over 4 years less than indeterminate	100	59.7	34.4	31.0	58	52
Male young offenders						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	11,700	9.9	5.0	4.3	51	43
Up to and including 3 months	2,600	1.9	1.0	0.9	55	49
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	4,400	4.8	2.5	2.1	52	45
Over 6 months less than 12 months	1,800	8.6	4.2	3.6	49	41
12 months	700	12.0	6.1	5.3	51	44
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	700	17.0	8.4	7.3	49	43
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	1,000	28.5	13.7	11.7	48	41
Over 3 years less than 4 years	300	42.4	20.5	17.5	48	41

Table 10.2: Average time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence, young offenders, England and Wales 2006

			Months			
			Average time served		*Percentage of sentence served*	
Length of sentence[1]	*Number of persons discharged*[2] [3]	*Average length of sentence*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*	*Including remand time*	*Excluding remand time*
4 years	100	48.0	28.2	25.1	59	52
Over 4 years less than indeterminate	100	59.6	34.4	31.0	58	52
Female young offenders						
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	800	8.0	3.8	3.2	47	40
Up to and including 3 months	300	2.0	1.0	0.9	50	45
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	300	4.8	2.4	2.1	50	43
Over 6 months less than 12 months	100	8.5	3.7	3.2	43	38
12 months	30	12.0	6.0	5.2	50	43
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	20	16.9	7.2	6.2	42	37
Over 18 months less than indeterminate	70	33.6	15.7	13.5	47	40

[1] On discharge: the sentence may change after reception if there are further charges or an appeal.

[2] Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine and persons reclassified as adult prisoners.

[3] Rounded to the nearest 100 or to the nearest 10 for numbers less than 100.

Data Sources and Quality:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. See Technical appendix of report for fuller information.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released on licence did not complete a risk of harm screening and a risk management plan prior to release in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [208046]

Mr. Hanson: Risk of harm screening and risk management plans were introduced as part of the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The roll-out of OASys began in 2003 and is being delivered to offenders serving custodial sentences of more than 12 months. Data on the number of prisoners released on licence without a risk of harm screening and/or a risk management plan is not collated centrally. To provide this information would require manual cross checking of separate databases, which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Electronic Tagging

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward plans to upgrade or replace the existing system for tracking prisoners who have been released with a tag. [209035]

Mr. Hanson: Electronic monitoring (EM) has been operating throughout England and Wales since 1999, following earlier pilot schemes. It is available at all stages of the criminal justice system. Adults or juveniles can be monitored on bail, as a court-ordered community sentence or release from prison. There are no plans to upgrade or replace the existing system, but we keep all processes and technology under review.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of the prison population who are veterans of the armed forces. [209076]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column. 1512W.

Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release in all prisons in England and Wales conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Information relating to prisoners in Scotland and in Northern Ireland is a matter for Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service respectively.

Prisons: Electronic Surveillance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 849-50W, on prisons: electronic surveillance, what regime of authorisation and oversight of personal covert surveillance operations in prisons was in force in 1999; and if he will make a statement. [209485]

Mr. Straw: Prior to the introduction of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000, there was no legislation regarding covert surveillance in prisons nor was there independent scrutiny of any such operations. Covert surveillance operations in 1999 required authority of the Home Secretary.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* adult and *(b)* young offenders found guilty of (i) sexual offences, (ii) violence against the person and (iii) robbery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available were given community sentences. [209700]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table. The data are a further breakdown of statistics contained in Table 1.2 of the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, "Sentencing Statistics 2006".

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons given community sentences[1] for various offence groups and proportion of total sentenced, by age group, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

	Total sentenced		*Community sentence*		*Proportion of total (percentage)*	
Offence group	*Adult*	*Young offenders[2]*	*Adult*	*Young offenders[2]*	*Adult*	*Young offenders[2]*
1997						
Violence against the person	22,862	11,675	7,267	5,043	31.8	43.2
Sexual offences	3,754	714	759	381	20.2	53.4
Robbery	1,987	3,610	83	1,224	4.2	33.9
1998						
Violence against the person	24,740	12,379	8,134	5,666	32.9	45.8
Sexual offences	3,830	760	750	426	19.6	56.1
Robbery	2,090	3,472	142	1,214	6.8	35.0
1999						
Violence against the person	23,626	12,357	8,032	5,704	34.0	46.2
Sexual offences	3,547	763	726	434	20.5	56.9
Robbery	2,377	3,275	174	1,132	7.3	34.6
2000						
Violence against the person	22,716	12,817	7,857	6,236	34.6	48.7
Sexual offences	3,223	718	636	424	19.7	59.1
Robbery	2,440	3,504	146	1,246	6.0	35.6
2001						
Violence against the person	22,190	13,246	7,824	6,729	35.3	50.8
Sexual offences	3,258	779	617	430	18.9	55.2
Robbery	2,617	4,229	150	1,683	5.7	39.8
2002						
Violence against the person	24,237	13,536	8,751	7,720	36.1	57.0
Sexual offences	3,532	841	703	504	19.9	59.9
Robbery	3,448	4,283	205	1,510	5.9	35.3
2003						
Violence against the person	24,933	13,098	9,234	7,763	37.0	59.3
Sexual offences	3,612	721	744	425	20.6	58.9
Robbery	3,384	3,955	284	1,740	8.4	44.0
2004						
Violence against the person	25,607	13,650	9,674	8,300	37.8	60.8
Sexual offences	3,943	880	809	595	20.5	67.6
Robbery	3,090	4,423	261	2,038	8.4	46.1
2005						
Violence against the person	26,312	14,442	10,078	8,951	38.3	62.0
Sexual offences	3,840	907	907	537	23.6	59.2
Robbery	2,663	4,476	308	2,231	11.6	49.8
2006						
Violence against the person	26,889	15,916	8,860	8,372	33.0	55.8
Sexual offences	4,072	860	873	474	21.4	55.1
Robbery	2,794	5 375	314	2,643	11.2	49.2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Young offenders includes data for juveniles (10 to 17-year-olds) in addition to data for young offenders (18 to 20-year-olds).

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

QMS, Analytical Services

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit Helpline

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many audits of performance of the Child Tax Credits Helpline there have been since the helpline was established; on what dates; and what the outcome of each such audit was. [206921]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* The information requested is not available in the format requested.

HMRC conducts a series of ongoing checks to monitor the effectiveness and performance of the Tax Credits Helpline which handles calls relating to Child Tax Credit. These checks include the daily recording and monitoring of general telephony performance, quality checks and complaints received.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis he undertook prior to the Budget 2008 of the effect of the proposed changes to vehicle excise duty on people in different income groups. [208836]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes into account all relevant economic, social and environmental factors in deciding taxation policy, including analysis of distributional impacts.

Fuels: Prices

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment has been made of the effect of changes in fuel prices on the cost of the provision of Government services; and if he will make a statement. [208738]

Angela Eagle: Fuel prices have a wide-ranging impact on the public finances. The exact scale and timing of these effects will depend on the responses of individuals and businesses to changing prices.

Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual income was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [208849]

Yvette Cooper: Information on average annual earnings is set out in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) by the Office of National Statistics. Data are made available on the basis of where a person lives and where they work, broken down by parliamentary constituencies, regions and country. Information on the basis of where people live is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2007/tab10_7a.xls.

Information on the basis of where people work is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2007/tab9_7a.xls.

Information on the basis of where people live at the local authority level is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2007/tab8_7a.xls.

Information on the basis of where people work at the local authority level is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2007/tab7_7a.xls.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6th May 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W, on income tax: tax rates and bands, what representations he has received on compensating *(a)* carers and *(b)* retirees between the ages of 50 and 59 years who are paying more tax as a result of the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate; what plans he has to consult on mechanisms to compensate such carers and retirees; and if he will make a statement. [204671]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor receives representations on a wide aide range of issues. On 13 May 2008 the Chancellor announced that income tax personal allowances would be increased by £600 for the current tax year, providing an additional £120 to basic rate taxpayers. This will support all basic rate taxpayers under 65, including many carers and retirees between the ages of 50 and 59. As the Chancellor said on 13 May, he will report on proposals for future years at the Pre-Budget Report.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1201-2, on income tax, (1) what the effect of the *(a)* increase in personal allowances and *(b)* abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of tax is for those earning below £40,835, broken down by £1,000 income bands; and if he will make a statement; [206884]

(2) what information he holds on the *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* household composition and *(d)* earnings level of the 1.1 million people estimated to receive partial compensation as a result of his proposals in relation to those who lost out as a result of the withdrawal of the 10 pence starting rate of tax. [206885]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The announcement on 13 May means that 80 per cent. of the households who stood to lose from the Budget 2007 reforms are compensated in full, and the remaining 1.1 million will see their losses more than halved.

Details of the 1.1 million households who are not fully compensated, including the information requested, are set out in the Government's memorandum to the Treasury Committee on its inquiry into Budget Measures and Low-Income Households.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the £2.7 billion tax cut announced on 13 May will benefit persons paying higher rate or basic rate income tax, excluding those persons paying the basic rate only as a consequence of the abolition of the 10 pence rate. [207143]

Jane Kennedy: People under the age of 65 with incomes between 5,435 and 41,435 will gain from the increase in the personal allowance announced on 13 May.

If the 10p starting rate of income tax had been retained, people would have begun paying the basic rate of income tax at an income of £7,755.

Just over 90 per cent of the benefit will go to people with incomes between £7,755 and £41,435.

Income: Ministry of Defence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is the policy of his Department that the proceeds of all asset sales by the Ministry of Defence should be available for re-investment within the defence budget; and if he will make a statement. [208718]

Yvette Cooper: Chapter 7 of the 2008-09 Consolidated Budgeting Guidance sets out the policy for the treatment of proceeds from asset sales. This is available on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/4/1/consolidated_budguid010208.pdf

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 17th April, on tax on fuel, PO Ref 1/56374/2008. [209694]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 14 May, on the 10 per cent. tax band, PO Ref 1/571295/2008. [209696]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 6 June.

Oil: Prices

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the prices of oil and gas on taxation revenues accruing to the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement. [208739]

Angela Eagle: The full impact of higher oil and gas prices on tax revenues will depend on their effect on the economy as a whole.

Higher oil prices generate greater receipts from both North sea corporation tax and petroleum revenue tax but there are a number of offsetting effects that limit the overall impact on the public finances. These include the impact of temporarily higher inflation on the indexation of tax allowances and social security benefits, the impact from lower demand for fuel on fuel duties and repercussions on other consumption and expenditure taxes and that higher oil costs could affect the profits of other companies.

Updated forecasts will be published in the Pre-Budget Report later this year.

PFI: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of private finance initiative schemes in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. [209204]

Angela Eagle: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency and the procuring authority.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative schemes there are in Leeds West constituency. [209205]

Angela Eagle: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm.

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency and the procuring authority.

Poynter Review

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the final report by Kieran Poynter into the data loss at HM Revenue and Customs to be published; and if he will make a statement. [208748]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 612.

Revenue and Customs: Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment by each HM Revenue and Customs office in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [208747]

Jane Kennedy: Expenditure, including that on entertaining, is subject to audit and the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. £10,001 was spent within HMRC (excluding VGA) on entertaining during the 2007-08 financial year. Obtaining information on the amount spent on alcohol within this figure is available only at disproportionate cost.

This total can be analysed to the appropriate office directorates within HMRC as follows:

	£
Anti-Avoidance Group	102.21
Benefits and Credits	850.58
Business Customer Unit	284.43
Central Compliance	26.18
Charities, Assts Residence	95.91
Commercial	10.11

	£
Corporation Tax and VAT	182.45
Criminal Investigations	1,292.76
Customs and International	1,853.05
Debt Management and Banking	511.57
Detection	2,003.55
Finance	352.20
Local Compliance	305.52
Large Business Services	43.12
National Teams and SCI	69.30
PAYE SA and NICs	65.50
People Function	21.00
Risk and Intelligence	1,926.64
Solicitors Office	5.00
Total	10,001.08

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average salary is of a member of staff in HM Revenue and Customs assigned to handling the recovery of tax credit overpayments; [206861]

(2) how many members of staff in HM Revenue and Customs are assigned to handling the recovery of tax credit overpayments. [206862]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Where there is a continuing award, tax credits overpayments are automatically recovered by adjusting the customer's payments. Such action involves minimal staff intervention. HMRC's Code of Practice 26 available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/forms-leaflets.htm

provides details of the automatic rates of recovery.

In circumstances where a tax credits claim has ended and there is no continuing entitlement from which overpaid tax credits can be recovered, the overpaid amount will be recovered by direct payment from the claimant.

Staff engaged in direct recovery work of these overpayments comprise several grades at different recovery stages and it is not possible to isolate the number or calculate the average salaries of staff engaged solely in the direct recovery of tax credits overpayments.

Revenue and Customs: Reorganisation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* gross costs, *(b)* gross savings and *(c)* net savings are assumed by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of their proposals to change their operations in (i) Trinity House, Oxford, (ii) Andover, (iii) Aylesbury, (iv) Banbury, (v) Newbury, (vi) Sterling House, Oxford and (vii) South East England as a whole; and if he will make a statement; [208571]

(2) over what period of time HM Revenue and Customs plans to make the savings expected to derive from its reorganisation of offices in the South East; [208572]

(3) if he will publish a cost/benefit analysis of HM Revenue and Customs' plans for office relocation and reorganisation in the South East. [208581]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has too much office space and is engaged in a review programme to decide which offices should be retained as best suiting its future business needs. The review is being carried out on a regional basis but in the light of HMRC's operational needs across the UK, as its work is organised on national business lines rather than regionally.

Decisions have now been made and announced for all HMRC offices in the major urban centres, including those in south-east England.

Proposals were published in March for the remaining HMRC offices in south-east England, as well as in the west midlands, east midlands and north-east. They included proposals to retain the office building in Trinity House, Oxford, but vacate those in Andover, Aylesbury, Banbury, Newbury and Sterling House, Oxford. Final decisions have not yet been made on the future of any of these offices.

There will be short-term costs associated with closing any office as well as specific ongoing estate savings from that closure. However, it would be misleading to look at these in isolation as they are just a small part of the overall picture. HMRC is restructuring its entire business operations in order to achieve the value for money savings and customer service improvements required by the end of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period in March 2011. MRC is monitored on its performance against its departmental strategic objectives and this includes a cost/benefit analysis of its departmental transformation programme. The restructuring and relocation programme contributes to that programme.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account has been taken of the Government's plans for housing growth in South East England in formulating the plans of HM Revenue and Customs for office reorganisation in that region. [208573]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) office restructuring proposals are not affected by potential fluctuations in local populations. Most of the work carried out in HMRC offices is not directly related to the area in which the office is situated and HMRC has given a commitment that inquiry centre services offering face to face advice to HMRC customers will be maintained in all their current localities.

Revenue and Customs: Smoking

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many smoking shelters were built at each HM Revenue and Customs office in the last five years. [208671]

Jane Kennedy: There were no smoking shelters built at HMRC offices since the formation of HMRC in April 2005. There were smoking shelters built at ex-Customs and Excise buildings prior to the merger. Information regarding ex-IR offices prior to the merger in 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

When Benton Park View, Newcastle-upon-Tyne was constructed—1999-2000 Phase 1, 2002-03 Phase 2 and 2004 Phase 3—eight smoking shelters were built as part of the design package.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many incorrect penalty notices were sent by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [208746]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the leaflet from the early 1970s which women opting to pay the married woman's stamp were required to certify that they had read. [207205]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 22 June 2008]:* The former Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo) did so on 20 January 2003 in response to a similar question from the hon. Gentleman, *Official Report*, column 86W.

Tax Credit: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of people receiving working family tax credit in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district; [209208]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the number of parents receiving child tax credit in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. [209209]

Jane Kennedy: Working families' tax credit was replaced by child and working tax credits in April 2003.

Estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, by local authority and constituency, as at 5 April 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2008". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

We do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Taxation

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue would be raised by a *(a)* one penny and *(b)* two pence increase in the rate of taxation of earnings over (i) £500,000, (ii) £1,000,000 and (iii) £2,000,000 in 2008-09. [207802]

Jane Kennedy: The table 'Additional full-year yield from the introduction of additional higher rates of tax on TAXABLE incomes over a specific amount' contains comprehensive information on income tax and is available in the Library of the House. The table excludes any estimate of behavioural response.

The version of the table currently available is based upon the 2003-04 Survey of Personal Incomes and is therefore out of date. An updated table for 2008-09 based on the latest available survey will be placed in the Library before the summer recess.

Taxation: Pensioners

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the administrative cost of collecting income tax from those in receipt of the state pension. [208868]

Jane Kennedy: Income tax is collected in a variety of ways from those in receipt of state pensions, including self assessment, PAYE, and tax deducted at source from investment income. HMRC has no estimate of the extent to which the range of implied administrative costs arises specifically from that group.

Taxation: Rebates

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average time was taken to process and pay tax refunds in each of the last three years. [208744]

Jane Kennedy: There are many circumstances in which a tax refund may arise, and HMRC does not hold this information centrally. Refunds arising from online self assessment returns are normally made within seven days. Repayment claims arising from tax on investment income deducted at source are processed within 15 working days of receipt.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who *(a)* are eligible to claim back tax deducted from their savings income at 10 per cent. and *(b)* have claimed back this tax in the last 12 month period for which data are available. [208749]

Jane Kennedy: The number of taxpayers in 2008-09 with savings income in the 10p starting rate band is estimated at around three million. Of these around 750,000 are estimated to claim back the difference between tax on interest deducted at source and tax liable at the 10p starting rate. The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 200-06, projected in line with Budget 2008 assumptions.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 899W, on the Valuation Office, to what a consequential refers for the purposes of the Valuation Office Agency's work on council tax valuations and revaluation. [203122]

Jane Kennedy: The term is commonly used in the Valuation Office Agency to refer to the review of the council tax banding of a property 'as a consequence' of information brought to light in respect of a neighbouring property. This is consistent with the statutory responsibility to maintain council tax valuation lists. There is no council tax revaluation being undertaken.

VAT: Lighting

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for lowering the rate of VAT on energy efficient light bulbs; and if he will make a statement. [208783]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times tax credit recipients have been charged penalties for *(a)* not notifying HM Revenue and Customs of changes in their circumstances and *(b)* negligently supplying incorrect information in each year since 2003; what the total value of such penalties was in each year; and what percentage of penalties were paid in full in each year. [205822]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 212W.

The total value of such penalties and percentage of penalties paid in full could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 June 2008

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks have been made on Kandahar airbase in each of the last 12 months; what the average number of daily attacks against Kandahar airbase was in the last three months, broken down by day of the week; and what type of munitions have been used against Kandahar airbase. [209644]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of attacks for each of the last 12 complete months.

	Number of attacks
2007	
May	5
June	0
July	1
August	3
September	3
October	3
November	4
December	3
2008	
January	0
February	1
March	4
April	3
May	7

The following table shows the daily average number of attacks for each day of the week over the past three months.

Day of the Week	*Daily average attacks*
Monday	0.15
Tuesday	0.08
Wednesday	0.00
Thursday	0.38
Friday	0.31
Saturday	0.00
Sunday	0.15

Kandahar airfield has been attacked with 107mm, 122mm and unknown calibre rockets. Incidents involving the launch of multiple rockets are classed as one attack.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rocket attacks there were on Kandahar airbase in each year since 2001. [209645]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of rocket attacks on Kandahar Airfield by year. Prior to 2006, no rocket attacks were recorded by UK forces.

	Number of attacks
2006	42
2007	32
2008 (to 31 May)	15

Incidents involving the launch of multiple rockets are classed as one attack.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies manage the *(a)* television, *(b)* internet and *(c)* telephone contracts for (i) the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital and (ii) Headley Court rehabilitation centre. [206913]

Derek Twigg: At Selly Oak hospital, where the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine is based, telephone, internet and television services are provided under contract by Premier Telesolutions.

At Headley Court internet and telephony services are provided under the Defence Fixed Telecommunications service with BT. The televisions that are provided in communal areas of the unit are not managed by a contractor.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent estimated cost of the Future Rapid Effects System programme is. [210168]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of the Future Rapid Effect System family of armoured vehicles will be fixed at the main investment decisions. It is our policy not to release or discuss programme costs ahead of the main investment decisions.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials have had recent discussions with counterparts in the United States administration on the possibility of deploying anti-missile interceptors at United Kingdom bases. [209131]

Des Browne: No discussions of this nature have taken place.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many discussions he has had with *(a)* NATO and *(b)* Russia on Ballistic Missile Defence in the last 12 months. [209582]

Des Browne: The issue of ballistic missile defence is routinely discussed at a high level in a number of NATO and bilateral forums.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208390]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table:

		Headcount
	Strength	*Percentage of employees*
Male	53,610	63.9
Female	30,320	36.1
Ethnic minority	2,060	3.0
Disabled	3,320	5.5

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

MOD civilian statistics above exclude staff employed as locally engaged civilians, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for whom details of gender, ethnic minority status and disability status are not centrally reported.

Percentage of MOD civilian from ethnic minority and disabled staff are based on known voluntary declaration and excludes staff of unknown declaration.

The number of MOD civilian employees recorded as *(e)* not heterosexual, is not held by the Department.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209423]

Derek Twigg: All service and civilian personnel complete some form of vocational training as there are a number of training courses which personnel have to complete as part of their core or functional training throughout their career. In addition a wide variety of courses, education and work-related attachments are provided on an elective basis.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208138]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not hold data on the amount of food waste generated over the past five years.

Military Aid

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions military aircraft have been used for humanitarian aid since 1997. [209652]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of the usage of military aircraft used for humanitarian aid are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK Trident warhead complies with the guideline that insensitive high explosive should be used for the supercharge in a nuclear weapon, as specified in JSP 538 regulation of the nuclear weapon programme, Annex G, on safety principles and guidelines for nuclear weapons systems. [209190]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested, as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

World War II: Military Decorations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the medals given to *(a)* RAF servicemen for service during the Second World War and *(b)* RAF servicemen who were part of the Bomber Command in the Second World War. [209650]

Derek Twigg: Armed forces personnel, including members of the Royal Air Force, could qualify for a range of medals and campaign Stars instituted for service during the second world war. Individuals who met the qualifying criteria could qualify for the following campaign Stars:

1939-45 Star
Air Crew Europe Star
Atlantic Star
Africa Star
Italy Star
France and Germany Star
Burma Star
Pacific Star

The regulations specified that in certain circumstances the 1939-45 Star had to be earned before additional Stars could be awarded.

In addition, the Defence Medal was instituted for non-operational service in potentially hazardous locations and the War Medal 1939-45 was issued to all armed forces personnel who had completed 28 days service.

Personnel who served as members of Bomber Command, and who met the appropriate qualifying criteria, could receive the following campaign Stars and medals:

1939-45 Star
Air Crew Europe Star
Atlantic Star
France and Germany Star
Defence Medal
War Medal 1939-45

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent by her Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205171]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office spent £1,390.61 on interpretation (signing) services in 2007-08.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many smoking shelters were built at each of the Government Equalities Office's London buildings in each of the last five years. [205034]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment in October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has sub-let offices in buildings run by the Department of Communities and Local Government and I refer you to the response given by them to the smoking shelters question.

WALES

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on its evaluation of the results of housing stock transfer in Wales. [208246]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues.

Housing stock transfer in Wales is devolved. The Assembly Government's overall policy in relation to housing and stock transfer, as set out in the "One Wales" document, is to ensure that social housing in Wales meets 21st century standards—the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Local authorities in Wales are required to submit annual 30-year Housing Revenue Account business plans demonstrating how they intend to achieve and maintain the standard, or to submit a notice that the council has resolved to ballot tenants on a stock transfer to a registered social landlord.

Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Monmouthshire and Torfaen have transferred their housing stock.

Conwy, Merthyr and Newport are progressing stock transfer proposals following ballots in favour.

Blaenau Gwent, Ceredigion and Gwynedd have resolved to ballot their tenants on stock transfer proposals.

Anglesey, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Neath Port Talbot, Powys, Pembrokeshire and the Vale of Glamorgan are retaining their housing stock. Their business plans are being reviewed.

The Welsh Assembly Government aims to have the WHQS delivered as early as possible in each local authority area. Evaluation is individual to each local authority, when it submits its business plan, and is based on regular meetings with the Welsh Local Government Association, local authority leaders and housing officers.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Cycling

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects to announce that contracts have been signed on the Olympic Velopark. [209706]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority announced on the 8 May that ISG InteriorExterior had been awarded the contract to construct the Velodrome. The designs for the Velopark are continuing to be developed by a design consortium, led by Hopkins Architects, and they are due to be finalised this summer.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208400]

David Cairns: The staffing information containing the gender breakdown of the Scotland Office are published in the Office's Annual Report; available in the House Library or on our website at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/

As the Scotland Office is a small organisation, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, the Office does not disclose specific numbers of staff by ethnicity or disability for privacy reasons.

Scotland Office staff are not required to provide any details of their sexuality, so information on this is not available.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208373]

David Cairns: Staff appraisals for the year 2007-08 have just been completed.

No performance-related payments have been paid to date, and so a breakdown is not available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received since June 2007 from the leaders of political parties in Northern Ireland *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the extension of the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland; what response was given to those representations; and if he will make a statement. [209126]

Mr. Woodward: On 9 May 2008 I received a copy of the letter from the leaders of the four main political parties in Northern Ireland that was sent to all Members of the House expressing concern at the possibility of extending the provisions of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland. I have not received any representations from party leaders supporting the extension of the Act to Northern Ireland.

I replied on 3 June to say that that the Government were aware there is no support among the political parties in Northern Ireland to alter the law on abortion, and to repeat our assurance that we have no plans to amend the law on abortion to include Northern Ireland. The Government consider that the best forum for discussion of these questions is the Northern Ireland Assembly, once it has assumed responsibility for the criminal law.

My reply of 3 June was sent to all hon. and right hon. Members for information and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Age of Consent

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on lowering of the age of consent in Northern Ireland. [207734]

Paul Goggins: The draft Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, which was agreed by the House of Commons on 3 June contains a new offence of sexual activity with a child under the age of 16. This means that it will be an offence for a person to engage in any sexual activity, not just sexual intercourse, with a child or young person under that age. We have seen no specific evidence to suggest that the criminal law in Northern Ireland should continue to be at variance with the rest of the UK on this issue, and are supported in this view by numerous children's organisations, including the NSPCC, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner, as well as from representatives within the social services sector.

Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to encourage the public to report crime in Northern Ireland. [207753]

Paul Goggins: Successful policing requires the community to work in partnership with the police. Each PSNI district command unit works with District Policing Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships, elected representatives and community leaders to build strong and effective working relationships with all members of the community. This trust is essential for the public to report crime. At the regional level, media appeals and public awareness campaigns are run to encourage the public to report crime. For example, in the last three months advertisements aimed at increasing crime reporting appeared on billboards, buses, posters in retail and community premises, and in pubs and clubs across Northern Ireland.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions were secured for the offence of driving without insurance in each of the last five years, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [208330]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of convictions for driving without insurance broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Convictions for driving without insurance[1] by parliamentary constituency 2002-06

Parliamentary constituency	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Belfast East	172	127	209	209	182
Belfast North	276	269	466	288	257
Belfast South	164	148	209	148	159
Belfast West	380	272	404	307	216
East Antrim	168	130	168	141	105
East Londonderry	189	156	204	212	170
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	240	197	152	170	307
Foyle	271	312	301	352	240
Lagan Valley	121	152	140	130	122
Mid Ulster	184	134	136	149	200
Newry and Armagh	224	294	259	315	301
North Antrim	211	163	172	139	210
North Down	181	130	159	125	118
South Antrim	147	145	236	162	147
South Down	175	165	179	200	186
Strangford	161	119	166	175	189
Upper Bann	236	275	237	259	200
West Tyrone	288	208	201	181	243
Missing[2]	413	352	203	222	316
Total	4,201	3,748	4,201	3,884	3,868

[1] Includes the offences 'no insurance' and 'causing no insurance'.

[2] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom parliamentary constituency information is not available.

Firearms: Theft

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many legally held weapons were stolen from properties in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [208331]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> Statistics are captured on the basis of Police Districts and Areas, and therefore the information requested is not readily available.

The Chief Constable will write to the hon. Member to provide an answer in due course, and the letter will be placed in the House Library.

Hillsborough Castle: Official Hospitality

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on Hillsborough castle: official hospitality, what the cost of each reception held in Hillsborough castle was in the last three financial years. [207674]

Mr. Woodward: I will publish in due course a list providing information relating to official receptions hosted by Ministers in this Department in the 2007-08 financial year.

Kidnapping

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attempted child abductions were reported to the police in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [208332]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> Statistics are captured on the basis of Police Districts and Areas, and therefore the information requested is not readily available.

The Chief Constable will write to the hon. Member to provide an answer in due course, and the letter will be placed in the House Library.

Small Businesses: Crime Prevention

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advice and assistance is provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to owners of small businesses on the prevention and detection of crime. [207751]

Paul Goggins: The chief constable has provided the following answer:

> The Policing Plan 2008-2011 contains two targets specifically related to business crime.
>
> These targets call for the police to:
>
> work in partnership with relevant agencies to tackle business crime; and
>
> work in partnership with the business community to develop a business crime strategy.
>
> Crime Prevention Officers provide advice to small businesses throughout Northern Ireland. The PSNI also engage with Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and Northern Ireland Independent Retailers Association to identify crime problems and provide tailored solutions including an offer of crime prevention advice to each FSB branch in Northern Ireland.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Architecture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the online database under the Engaging Places programme. [208844]

Margaret Hodge: £23,500 has been spent on the online component of the Engaging Places programme (including an editorial strategy). The website is currently being developed by Culture24 and makes use of Culture24's existing online database technology.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 325W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [208711]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department spent the following on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements:

	£
2007-08	51,838
2006-07	49,954
2005-06	56,223

The Department does not hold information on the percentage relating to Fairtrade products.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times he has visited *(a)* commercial leisure organisations, *(b)* licensed bingo clubs and *(c)* dance schools in the last 12 months; when his last visit to each such organisation was; and what the location of visit was in each case. [208194]

Andy Burnham: I have not visited any commercial leisure organisations, licensed bingo clubs or dance schools in an official capacity since becoming Secretary of State.

Eurovision Song Contest

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial contribution was made by the BBC towards the cost of the Eurovision Song Contest in each of the last 10 years. [209041]

Andy Burnham: The BBC is an independent body and financial contributions towards the cost of the Eurovision Song Contest are a matter for the BBC.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 325W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase in his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; what value of Fairtrade produce was purchased in his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of total revenue this represented. [208703]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold information on the type of Fairtrade products available or the value of Fairtrade items purchased.

The Department does encourage its catering contractor to make Fairtrade products available in the staff catering facilities and for official departmental meetings and engagements wherever possible.

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* fined and *(c)* cautioned for underage gambling in each of the last 10 years. [208508]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

National Railway Museum: York

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to the National Railway Museum in York in 2007; and how much it expects to provide to the museum in 2008. [209322]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The National Railway Museum is a branch of the National Museum of Science and Industry. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not earmark funding for a particular branch of the NMSI, and under the arms-length principle is not involved in the decision-making process whereby NMSI decides how DCMS funding is distributed to the NRM.

In 2007-08, DCMS provided £38,484,000 grant in aid to the NMSI; in 2008-09, it expects to provide £39,158,000.

Sports: Facilities

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that sports facilities and playing surfaces are maintained in good condition in the long term; and if he will make a statement. [209486]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2007-08 Sport England invested £248 million to support community sport, of which £113.3 million was grant in aid and £134.6 million was lottery.

Investment through programmes like Community Club Development and the National Sports Foundation assisted both National Governing Bodies and local community sports clubs to develop over 1,700 capital projects over the last five years.

Where a sports project has benefited from a capital award from Sport England, there is a requirement within the funding agreement for the facility to be maintained for the life of the award. Projects are required to set aside "sinking funds" for the life cycle of the facility or pitch to allow for routine planned maintenance and for the renewal of major elements of the facility such as indoor floor finishes, plant and outdoor playing surfaces. The term of the grant varies according to the scale of investment made. Typically, on a grant award over £50,000, Sport England requires a minimum of 21 years sporting outputs.

St. George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on promoting St. George's Day in each of the last five years. [208825]

Margaret Hodge: The Department promoted St. George's Day by flying the St. George's flag on 23 April.

The estimated spend in the last five years is as follows:

	Estimated spend (£)
2004[1]	0
2005[1]	0
2006[1]	0
2007	114
2008	116

[1] The Department did not fly the St. George's flag until 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with English Heritage on its St. George's Day campaign. [208826]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has had no specific discussions this year with English Heritage regarding St. George's Day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department took to celebrate St. George's Day in 2008. [208841]

Margaret Hodge: On 23 April, the Department flew the St. George's flag alongside the Union flag to celebrate St. George's Day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to provide funding to local authorities for the celebration of St. George's Day. [208842]

Margaret Hodge: The Department does not fund local authorities in this way.

Local authorities are core funded through Government financial settlements administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria: Christianity

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* steps taken by the Algerian government against Christian denominations and *(b)* the prosecution of Habiba Konider for possession of a Bible; what his policy is on the account taken of the need for toleration of all faiths by participants in the proposed EU-Mediterranean partnership; and what representations he has made to the Algerian government on these matters. [208666]

Dr. Howells: I am aware of reports emerging from Algeria concerning the closure of unauthorised churches and the detention of Christians accused of evangelisation. Our officials in Algiers and London continue to monitor developments. On 30 May, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London met with Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a non-governmental organisation which raises awareness of restrictions on the freedom of religion and belief across the world, including in Algeria.

In respect of Habiba Konider, I am aware that she is a 37-year-old Algerian national, currently facing prosecution for evangelisation. She was allegedly found in possession of more than 10 copies of the bible and was, as a result, arrested on 29 March 2008. The unauthorised possession of multiple copies of religious books is considered an offence according to the new Algerian law on the practice of worship by non-Muslims, adopted in February 2006. The trial is ongoing, with the court having suspended a verdict pending further investigation.

The situation of the right to freedom of religion and belief in Algeria was raised on 14 April during Algeria's examination under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, which the UK participated in. Additionally, the EU-Algeria Association agreement, which came into force in September 2005, restates that the principles and fundamental human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an essential part of the agreement and must be followed by both signatories. The EU will continue to raise questions of human rights in Algeria.

The Government are involved in EU discussions on the proposal to upgrade the Barcelona Process in light of President Sarkozy's proposals for a Union for the Mediterranean. At this stage the discussions are focused on the governance and activities of the new arrangements. The Government are keen that the new arrangements will better advance the implementation of the Barcelona Declaration, including on promoting dialogue, respect for human rights and a greater understanding between cultures.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* Belgium on the arrest of the losing presidential candidate, Jean-Pierre Bemba, in Belgium to face charges laid by the International Criminal Court. [208910]

Dr. Howells: Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo was arrested in Belgium on 24 May on the basis of a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). He is currently in Belgian custody. A decision on transferring Bemba to the ICC is for the Belgian authorities to make, in line with Belgian law and the Rome Statute of the ICC. We are in contact with Belgian officials both in Brussels and in Kinshasa and they are keeping us informed of developments. We have had no contact with the Democratic Republic of Congo authorities on this issue.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the contract his Department has signed for its new content management system and website requires the Department to use a single contractor for the maintenance of these systems. [208724]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's contract for the new content management system and websites was let to a prime contractor to deliver the platform as a whole. This includes maintenance and support of the associated systems for four years until 2012.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the terms of his Department's contract with the provider of his Department's new content management system and website permits sharing the intellectual property with other Government departments. [208725]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The intellectual property in items created by the supplier specifically under the contract or as a result of the supplier's performance under the contract belongs to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and so can be shared with other Government Departments. However, the supplier's pre-existing intellectual property which is used in performance of the contract is only licensed to the FCO and cannot be used by other Government Departments unless it is embedded in software written specifically by the supplier for the FCO where the FCO has the right to sub-licence such software to other Government Departments. The actual web content management system is third party software provided by the supplier and the licence of such third party software does not extend to other Government Departments. In addition, there are various other third party software products used for the Department's new website where the licences do not extend to other Government Departments.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has undertaken bench-marking activity against private sector bodies to establish whether the time taken to develop its new content management system and website is reasonable. [208726]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Before formally commencing procurement, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office engaged in market testing to inform its requirement in a number of areas, including the feasibility of the timeline. Use of the negotiated Official Journal of the EU procurement route enabled further development and refinement of the timeline with the bidders. The project was scheduled to be complete by September 2008 and is still on track to do so.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department considered an open source solution during the procurement process for its new content management system and website. [208727]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The procurement strategy adopted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office focused on business requirements and outcomes rather than use of a particular content management system. Suppliers were free to propose open source solutions within their technical designs.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's new content management system and website cost; and whether this project was delivered within the original budget. [208728]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The costs of the project were detailed in a response on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1772-3W). The project is currently on budget and on track to be completed in September 2008.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's new content management system and website was originally scheduled to be operational; what the reasons are for the time taken; and whether the private sector contractor was required to make penalty payments for the time taken. [208729]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The project to deliver a new Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Web Platform is scheduled to be complete in 2008. We remain on target to deliver by this date. The main FCO (www.fco.gov.uk) and UKvisas (www.ukvisas.gov.uk) websites were launched in March 2008. We are currently migrating our embassy and high commission websites to the new platform.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials were involved in the development of his Department's new content management system and website. [208730]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The e-Media team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) worked with private contractors and consultants to develop the new FCO Web Platform. The e-media team is made up of 16 home civil servants. During the development process, the e-media team were not fully deployed on the development of the new platform but carried out other tasks including management and maintenance of the old web platform and other online communications projects.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political implications of the recent missile attack by Iran upon Ashraf City in Iraq. [208911]

Dr. Howells: This issue is a matter for the Iraqi government.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make representations to the government of Pakistan to encourage it to repeal that country's blasphemy laws; [208763]

(2) whether he has made recent representations to the government of Pakistan on behalf of the Christian community in Pakistan, with particular reference to alleged apostasy. [208762]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief. With our EU partners, we have raised our concerns over the situation of religious minorities in Pakistan and the frequent abuse of the blasphemy legislation. In addition, officials in London and Islamabad have met with representatives of minority organisations to monitor the treatment of minorities. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Pakistan about the treatment of minorities and to encourage reform or repeal of discriminatory legislation through the National Assembly.

The UN Human Rights Council undertook a Universal Periodic Review on the human rights records of a number of countries, including Pakistan, in May. The UK participated in this dialogue and obtained a commitment from the Pakistani delegation that checks would be introduced to regulate investigations into allegations of blasphemy and apostasy.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of alleged child abuse by peacekeepers and aid workers in *(a)* the Ivory Coast, *(b)* southern Sudan and *(c)* Haiti. [209045]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The UK takes all allegations of misconduct by peacekeepers and aid workers extremely seriously.

We receive regular reports on a range of human rights issues in all three countries, through, inter alia, our embassies, the UN, non-governmental organisations and the media. Sexual abuse of children was raised in reports of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in the Ivory Coast (August 2007) and Sudan (September 2008). Allegations of child abuse by peacekeepers and aid workers in the Ivory Coast, southern Sudan and Haiti were also detailed in a report published by Save the Children in May 2008. The report throws a spotlight on this serious issue and we are supportive of any efforts to protect some of the world's most vulnerable children.

The overwhelming majority of UN peacekeepers uphold the very highest of standards. But there have been cases where peacekeepers and aid officials have abused the trust placed in them by the very populations they are there to protect.

We are committed to working with the UN to tackle this problem. We support the UN's 'zero tolerance' policy towards incidents of abuse and are confident that allegations of wrongdoing are investigated comprehensively by the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations. But more must be done to eradicate this problem, so we are also helping to support the UN's efforts to prevent exploitation and abuse by improving the conduct and discipline of its personnel. The peace support operations training that we provide for troops of other countries also covers matters of conduct, including the importance of protecting civilians (including women and children) in accordance with international law.

We are also committed to reducing the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse by its humanitarian partners' personnel. The Department for International Development's (DFID) guidelines for humanitarian funding for non-governmental organisations (2007) clearly state that:

> "DFID will not provide funding to organisations which do not subscribe to a code of conduct on sexual exploitation and abuse".

DFID has committed £1.3 million to support a project by Save the Children to train and deploy a cadre of highly skilled child protection personnel in the humanitarian sector. As a result of this project, over 360,000 vulnerable children will benefit, in addition to further multiplier effects, as the experience of trained staff impacts in the wider humanitarian system. From

2008, DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund has included child protection criteria for applicants who applied for funding that involves working with children. This includes a requirement to meet a set of non-negotiable criteria and reporting requirements around child protection policy and its implementation.

The Government will continue to strive toward eradicating the tragedy of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in conflict situations by all parties.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of levels of violence in Sri Lanka, with particular reference to the recent incident at Dehiwala station. [208912]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned about the recent marked increase in violence throughout Sri Lanka. The 26 May attack on the Colombo-Panadura train at Dehiwala station and the explosion on 4 June between Wellawatta and Dehiwala railway stations are examples of this. On 6 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary condemned attacks upon civilians and those responsible. He called for an end to the targeting of civilians and emphasised that only a just political process involving all communities could produce a sustainable solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on the Treaty of Lisbon, whether the contacts described have included discussions on the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [208815]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have regular contact with our Irish counterparts. Discussions have included the ratification of the Lisbon treaty, as well as other European and bilateral issues.

Uzbekistan: Politics and Government

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Uzbekistan on human rights and the promotion of democracy. [208861]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK remains seriously concerned at the overall level of human rights in Uzbekistan. The UK regularly raises concerns on human rights issues with the Uzbek authorities, both bilaterally and with EU partners. Most recently, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised concerns with the Uzbek government during a visit to Tashkent in May 2008. We also raise human rights and democracy issues frequently during discussions with the Uzbek embassy in London.

The EU also regularly raises its concerns on human rights issues with the Uzbek government. The EU has welcomed the recent progress achieved in Uzbekistan in the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law, notably the abolition of the death penalty, the introduction of habeas corpus and the ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The EU also welcomed the release by the Uzbek authorities of several prominent human rights defenders in February 2008, including Saidjahon Zainabitinov. On 2 June, the Uzbek authorities also released Mutabar Tadjibaeva—a development we warmly welcome.

The EU is prepared to support further Uzbek reforms in these areas while at the same time making it clear where we would like to see further progress. We welcome the Uzbek commitment to continuing the comprehensive and results-oriented human rights dialogue with the EU and look forward to concrete outcomes from this dialogue on 5 June.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Children: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes will be made to his Department's Manual of Protective Security in light of the security recommendations made by Deloitte as part of their review of the ContactPoint database published on 21 February. [190729]

Mr. Watson: The Manual of Protective Security (MPS) is updated regularly. The implications of the Deloitte Review for the MPS are being considered at present.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has accepted in full the recommendations of the Deloitte review. I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families (Kevin Brennan) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 55WS.

Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the next edition of The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income will be published. [208351]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2008:

> As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking when the next edition of 'The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income' will be published. (208351)
>
> 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 2006/07' will be published in June 2008. The exact release date will be made public on the UK Statistics Authority website at:
>
> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ReleaseCalendar/currentreleases.asp
>
> The analysis will be available on the Office for National Statistics website at:
>
> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Batteries: Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to increase recycling of batteries. [209169]

Joan Ruddock: We have recently consulted on the transposition of the EU Batteries Directive. When transposed, the directive will reduce the quantity of hazardous and non hazardous waste batteries going to landfill and increase the recovery of the materials they contain. Collection targets set by the directive for portable batteries are 25 per cent. by 2012, rising to 45 per cent. by 2016. The prohibition on incinerating or landfilling industrial and automotive batteries implies a 100 per cent. collection and recycling target for these batteries. The consultation closed on 13 March.

We are in the process of analysing the responses to the consultation. We will publish a summary shortly, followed by a second consultation later this year.

Research and trials to provide evidence for the consultation and to investigate the best ways of implementing the Batteries Directive have been carried out on portable batteries. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been working in partnership with a range of local authorities and not-for-profit organisations that already run recycling collection services to pilot portable waste battery collection trials in the UK. Trials include establishing 'drop off' points at supermarkets, as well as other methods of collection such as at the kerbside.

Supported by funding from DEFRA and the devolved administrations, the trials form part of a wider effort to develop cost-effective ways for the UK to meet the targets of the Batteries Directive. The results of the various trials will be published shortly, and these will be used to help the Government and batteries producers identify the best methods of collecting batteries to meet the directive's targets.

It is important to stress that under the Batteries Directive, which is a Producer Responsibility Directive, responsibility for the collection, treatment and recycling of waste batteries will lie with the producers of batteries. In order to fulfil their obligations, they may need to engage with local authorities to improve their collection network. Therefore, when the directive is enforced, the Compliance Scheme or schemes representing producers of batteries may need to make contractual agreements with local authorities if they wish to increase the level of batteries being recycled.

Environment Agency: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated shortfall in the Environment Agency's budget for operating and maintaining its navigations is for 2008-09. [207605]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency estimates the budget shortfall for operating and maintaining its navigations to be £11.3 million for 2008-09.

The Environment Agency is implementing a new funding strategy to address the navigation funding shortfall. This focuses on increasing navigation income, driving down costs and maximising the benefits delivered by Environment Agency waterways. Income will be increased through commercial ventures, greater external funding, securing funding from all beneficiaries and promoting greater use and public benefit from Environment Agency waterways. The strategy plans to close the funding gap by 2012 and achieve sustainability by 2020.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost is of completing the backlog of capital work on the Environment Agency's waterways structures. [207606]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency estimates the cost of completing the backlog of capital work to its waterway structures to be £30 million as at May 2008. This was estimated at £60 million in 2004 and consists of works outstanding for more than five years.

The Government and the Environment Agency Board have provided support in addressing the backlog of capital work, providing an additional £30 million to March 2008. This leaves £30 million of the 2004 backlog remaining. A further £10 million has been provided this year with a commitment to address the remainder by April 2011.

Environment Protection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to contribute towards the take-up of sustainable development practices and technologies and the establishment of a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy. [209332]

Joan Ruddock: On 1 May 2008 the Government published its response to the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance (CEMEP): "Building a low carbon economy: Unlocking Innovation and Skills". The final report from CEMEP, published in November 2007, provided an analysis of the scale of opportunities for the UK in moving to a low carbon, resource efficient and more sustainable economy. The Global Environmental Industries Sector, estimated to be worth £274 billion in 2005, is expected to grow to £342 billion by 2010 and just under £400 billion by 2015. But CEMEP also made it clear these opportunities will only be available to those countries and businesses with the foresight to seize them, and made a number of recommendations to business and Governments to do this.

The Government fully recognises the scale of these new opportunities and is working with partners to realise them, as outlined in "Building a low carbon economy." The Government have set out four key challenges: the need for long-term, clear, consistent and credible policies to encourage the confidence for businesses to invest and enable the timely development of innovative products and services to speed the transition to a low-carbon economy; the need to create the conditions that allow innovation to flourish, by removing barriers and other disincentives and through support for research, development and demonstration; that we have to draw on the talent and creativity of the British people and ensure that the economy has the skills it needs to be successful; and the need for partnership working between all levels of Government and business.

The CEMEP reports are available on the DEFRA website.

Environment Protection: Industry

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's targets on *(a)* energy efficiency, *(b)* renewable energy, *(c)* recycling and *(d)* resource efficiency on the types of skills required by environmental industries. [209331]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA officials are working proactively with employers, Sector Skills Councils, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and expert bodies representing the environmental industries, as well as other Government Departments (DIUS and BERR) to develop our evidence and understanding for the skills implications of the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient and more sustainable economy and to ensure that these are at the heart of our skills system.

Farms: Waste Disposal

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons all farm waste plastics are required to be taken to Dumfries for disposal; and what estimate he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from that requirement. [208965]

Joan Ruddock: There is no such requirement and therefore no estimate of the level of carbon dioxide emissions has been made.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what schemes for *(a)* financial support and *(b)* fuel subsidy to national fishing industries were approved by the European Commission in each month since November 2007; and what representations the Government made in respect of each scheme. [208753]

Jonathan Shaw: Schemes for financial support under the European Fisheries Fund are set out in each member state's operational programme. Details of the operational programmes approved by the European Commission since November 2007 are available on the European Commission's website.

Details of those schemes for financial support that require clearance under EU state aid rules are also available on the European Commission's website.

I understand that the European Commission has not formally approved any schemes for fuel subsidy.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of discards made by the English fishing industry in the last 12 months; and what assessment he has made of the relationship between the size of cod stocks fished by English vessels and the volume of discards. [209643]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the full extent of discarding undertaken by English vessels in the last year is not available. However, the information provided by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) North Sea Working Group this year, estimates that of the total landings of 1,626 tonnes of cod observed, a further 309 tonnes or 16 per cent. were discarded in 2007.

Gangmasters

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many gangmasters were *(a)* licensed and *(b)* found employing victims of trafficking in each of the last three years; and how much revenue has been generated from issuing licences. [209889]

Jonathan Shaw: The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) began licensing in April 2006. As of 5 June 2008, there are 1,193 gangmasters currently licensed by the GLA.

Of licences issued, the GLA has revoked 59 licences, including seven with immediate effect. In six out of the seven licences revoked with immediate effect, the GLA found evidence of exploitation equivalent to the International Labour Organization's indicators of forced labour. Out of these six cases, one licence revocation was in the financial year 2006-07 with the remaining five in 2007-08.

The income generated by the GLA through licence fees and charges for application inspections since it began operating is:

	£
2006-07	1,367,300
2007-08	1,374,600

Pollution Control

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1338W, on pollution control, how many IPPC permits were issued by *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* local authorities in 2007-08; how many air pollution control permits were issued by local authorities in 2007-08; and what the total revenue in permit fees was. [209457]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency issued 1251 PPC permits, most of which were IPPC, in 2007-08. The associated permit fees amounted to approximately £9.3 million.

Information on numbers of permits issued by local authorities and fees paid in 2007-08 will not be available until December, when the results of the annual Local Pollution Control Statistical Survey are available.

Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to increase recycling in public areas. [209170]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA launched 'Recycle on the Go' on 2 June which aims to put accessible recycling bins in public places. A good practice guide and a voluntary code of practice will help those responsible for public places to make recycling easy and accessible and includes new guidance on making good use of consistent signage. The materials are available on the DEFRA website, and copies of the publications have been placed in the Library of the House.

Rights of Way

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many unrecorded historic rights of way were discovered by his Department's Discovering Lost Ways project; and if he will make a statement. [209177]

Jonathan Shaw: The Discovering Lost Ways project concentrated initially on parts of Cheshire, Shropshire and Nottinghamshire. Following the systematic examination of key historic documents, Natural England has compiled evidence relating to 219 possible unrecorded rights of way.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arms Length Management Organisations: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which arm's-length management organisations (ALMOs) *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have powers to bid for Housing Corporation funding; and what processes need to be followed to allow ALMOs such powers. [209750]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 18 and 27a of the Housing Act 1996 the Housing Corporation has the power to provide social housing grants to registered social landlords (RSLs) and other bodies to deliver affordable housing. This includes arms length management organisations (ALMOs).

In order to bid for grant RSLs and other bodies, including ALMOs, must pre-qualify, which includes demonstrating capacity to deliver. The Housing Corporation has encouraged ALMOs categorised as two and three stars by the Audit Commission to seek pre-qualification this year as this assessment indicates that they are more likely to meet the pre-qualification criteria.

Council Tax: Tax Yields

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will rank each English local authority by the proportion of all expenditure raised by council tax receipts in 2007-08, showing the amount of council tax revenue in each case. [210019]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the requested ranked information on the percentage of budgeted revenue expenditure to be funded by council tax in 2007-08.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what proportion of its staff her Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209431]

Mr. Dhanda: Within the Department we are not aware that there are any staff who have undertaken vocational training (NVQs) in the last three years as these records are not held centrally.

Eco-Towns: Public Participation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations were received *(a)* for and *(b)* against each of the proposed eco-towns prior to the decision on which 15 sites would be shortlisted. [206093]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 664W. As that answer sets out, we are currently consulting on preliminary views on eco-town benefits and the short listed locations. The consultation closes on 30 June and we will in due course provide a further statement on the responses received, together with an indication of how the process influenced the policy. Our aim will be to publish this within three months of the consultation closing on 30 June.

Floods: Hull

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much of the funding to aid reconstruction following the floods in *(a)* Hull and *(b)* Gloucestershire in 2007 has been (i) allocated and (ii) transferred to each relevant local authority; [208624]

(2) how many applications for assistance from the funds announced by the Government to aid reconstruction following the floods in *(a)* Hull and *(b)* Gloucestershire in 2007 have been approved and paid; and how much has been paid in total; [208629]

(3) which transport-related projects have received funding from her Department to aid reconstruction following the floods in *(a)* Hull and *(b)* Gloucestershire in 2007; [208630]

(4) how much funding her Department provided to aid transport-related reconstruction following the floods in *(a)* Hull and *(b)* Gloucestershire in 2007; and how much of that funding has been allocated and transferred to each relevant local authority. [208631]

John Healey: In response to the 2007 summer floods CLG has allocated and transferred flood recovery grant (FRG) of £2,762,000 to Hull and £2,763,000 to local authorities in Gloucestershire. Flood recovery grant is unringfenced so local authorities have had the flexibility to decide how to best to use the grant based on their own local circumstances. Allocations of FRG were made on the basis of the best available data held by local authorities at the time on the number of households affected by flooding.

Following the summer 2007 floods, DSCF made available £3,214,424 to Hull, and £1,007,900 to Gloucestershire. These sums, which could be used for a range of purposes relating to schools and children's services, have already been transferred to the local authorities. DCSF's payments to local authorities were calculated according to a formula based on the number of schools severely, significantly or slightly damaged by the floods, the number of flooded homes, and the number of pupils in flooded schools—the latter two indicators to act as a proxy for the impact on other services for children, young people and families.

DCSF is discussing with Hull an application for exceptional capital funding for costs arising from the floods; the amount of this application is currently under discussion, and nothing has yet been paid. There has been no claim from Gloucestershire for such funding.

An initial claim submitted by Gloucestershire county council under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highways maintenance scheme has been processed and the £10.048 million allocated has been transferred to the authority. The funding received by the authority covers mainly repairs to landslips, roads, footways, structures, drainage and traffic signals.

Gloucestershire has submitted evidence to support a further claim which the Department for Transport is considering. They expect the authority to submit additional evidence to support further repair works in due course.

Kingston Upon Hull city council has not submitted a claim under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highways maintenance scheme.

In addition Hull has received Bellwin payments amounting to £2,097,817 and Gloucestershire (this includes the county council, police authority and relevant district councils) has received £4,447,964 in Bellwin payments. Bellwin is a scheme of emergency financial assistance to help local authorities meet uninsurable costs they incur when dealing with the aftermath of an emergency in their area, rather than to fund recovery.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [209389]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following numbers of new homes were built in Suffolk over the period 2002-03 to 2006-07:

	Number
2002-03	2,769
2003-04	2,691
2004-05	2,335
2005-06	3,368
2006-07	4,203

These are the most recent, published figures provided by local authorities, taken from the East of England Regional Assembly's Annual Monitoring Report.

Housing: Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which areas of London have been included in the New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal; and which of these are on course to meet the 20 year target to end postcode poverty. [208838]

John Healey: The Government's National Strategy Action Plan: 'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal' set out a radical vision that within 10 to 20 years no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

In terms of progress, the 'Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration Review' showed that the strategy has had a significant effect in the most deprived areas and that, overall, the gap in performance has narrowed between deprived local authority areas and the rest. However concentrations of deprivation remain and, despite rapid improvement in some of the most deprived areas, worklessness in particular remains persistent in some local communities.

As part of a concerted drive to tackle this problem the Government have established a new Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). This will focus on the most deprived areas and support local authorities and communities in their efforts to tackle worklessness and other elements of deprivation.

In London the boroughs receiving WNF are:

Barking and Dagenham;
Brent;
Greenwich;
Hackney;
Haringey;
Islington;
Lambeth;
Newham;
Southwark;
Tower Hamlets;
Waltham Forest.

All of these boroughs are also including worklessness-focused indicators in their local area agreements.

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are employed in the Cultural Services Improvement Unit of the Improvement and Development Agency. [209395]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* At present two members of staff are employed in Cultural Services Improvement Unit. They are in the process of integrating the unit into the core business of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and expect to have completed this transformation by October 2008.

Local Area Agreements: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in London have taken up local area agreements. [208839]

John Healey: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on all responsible local authorities in England to prepare and submit an LAA from 2008-09 onwards. This includes all 33 local authorities in London. New LAAs will be approved in June 2008.

Local Government Finance: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average grant per capita to *(a)* district councils and *(b)* county councils in England was in each of the last five years; and what the per capita grant to (i) Suffolk County Council and (ii) district councils in Suffolk was in each such year. [209410]

John Healey: The average central Government funding per capita to shire counties in England, Suffolk county council, shire districts in England and districts in Suffolk for the last five years is shown in the following table.

£ per head

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Shire Counties	616	691	730	772	800
Of which:					
Suffolk County Council	605	682	739	775	796
Shire Districts	71	78	75	79	91
Of which:					
Babergh	54	63	62	63	73
Forest Heath	90	90	89	95	94
Ipswich	84	105	90	91	110
Mid Suffolk	56	63	59	61	73
St. Edmundsbury	62	92	69	70	74
Suffolk Coastal	66	70	65	65	75
Waveney	81	92	81	93	107

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for each relevant year.

Mayors: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had on the merits of establishing a Mayor for Greater Manchester. [206088]

Mr. Dhanda: Officials regularly have discussions with local authorities, their stakeholders, and others, which from time to time may touch on issues of local governance, including the governance of city regions.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Yeovil, of 29 April 2008, on strip washing for elderly people. [209622]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Baroness Andrews) has now replied to the hon. Member's letter.

Planning Permission: Environmental Impact Assessment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for local developments required ecological surveys in each of the last three years. [210042]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold information on how many ecological surveys local planning authorities (LPAs) require each year.

This type of information may, however, be required by local planning authorities when they require a developer to carry out an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The average number of EIAs required by planning legislation in England over the last three years was about 350-400 cases per year.

Public Libraries: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on public libraries: valuation, how many public libraries in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales were on the Valuation Office Agency's 1995 Ratings List in 1997, or the closest period to that year for which figures were available. [203072]

John Healey: As at July 1998 the number of libraries in the rating lists were:

(a) England: 3,066;

(b) Wales: 264.

These details, extracted from the VGA's database at the stated date, accord with the use classification for non-domestic rating purposes. Descriptions used in rating lists reflect the predominant use of the property in accordance with rating legislation and legal precedent.

They do not distinguish between public and private sector use of a property; do not necessarily include non-fixed assets (such as mobile facilities) and do not pick up secondary uses of property (e.g. public libraries housed within civic centres).

The figures should therefore not be regarded as an authoritative statistical source for other purposes.

Regional Planning and Development: Government Departments

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is the policy of the Government that government departments should *(a)* maintain and *(b)* increase the number of staff posts located in the four growth zones identified by her Department in its sustainable communities plan. [209873]

Mr. Iain Wright: Staffing issues and the choice of location are matters for individual departments, taking into account their own business needs and an informed assessment of locations. In February 2006 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Office for Government Commerce and Treasury published guidance setting out how Government Departments should take account of regional economic balance considerations when choosing locations for work being transferred out of London and the South East. The guidance explains the details of how departments should reflect Government policy in the decisions they make about new locations for their business.

Regional Planning and Development: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect on employment in her Department's Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional growth area of plans by HM Revenue and Customs to reduce its operations in Aylesbury. [208578]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. HM Revenue and Customs is reviewing its operations across the UK to consolidate its estate and introduce business efficiencies following the creation of the department from the former Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise. The review is still ongoing and HM Revenue and Customs is currently consulting on its proposals, which would involve relocating most of the staff in its Aylesbury office to other HMRC offices within reasonable daily travelling time.

HEALTH

Airports: Health Hazards

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the public health impact of *(a)* Heathrow airport and *(b)* other airports in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [209710]

(2) what studies his Department has commissioned into the incidence of cancer in areas around *(a)* Heathrow airport and *(b)* other airports compared to other areas; and if he will make a statement. [209711]

Dawn Primarolo: Paragraph 12.2 of the Department for Transport White Paper, The Future of Air Transport, 2003, Cm 6046, states that the airport operators are expected to undertake appropriate health impact assessments. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The Small Area Health Statistics Unit at Imperial College London, which is part-funded by the Department, is carrying out a study to investigate health effects including cancer incidence around Heathrow airport. The Department has not commissioned studies into the incidence of cancer in areas around other airports compared to other areas.

Asthma: Nurses

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department plans to increase the number of trained asthma nurses in deprived areas; [209572]

(2) how many people with asthma were offered a consultation with a trained asthma nurse during the last year for which figures are available. [209623]

Ann Keen: Education and training for all nurses is the responsibility of their employers in light of local priorities and local assessment of training needs.

Information about consultations with asthma nurses is not collected centrally.

Dementia: Social Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the recent findings of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's survey of the services provided to residents with dementia in 100 care homes in England; and if he will make a statement. [209165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The Department notes the publication of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's (CSCI) report.

Anyone in a care home, regardless of whether or not they have dementia, should expect a high standard of care and, as a society, we should not tolerate anything less. Where necessary, poorly performing care homes are kept under scrutiny by CSCI.

Dental Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered with an NHS dentist in Milton Keynes in each quarter of the last five years; and what percentage of the Milton Keynes population this represented in each period. [210125]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of patients registered with a national health service dentist at 31 March, 1997 to 2006, is available in Annex A of "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex C contains information by constituency.

Annex B contains information on the proportion of the population registered with an NHS dentist in the same time period and is presented by SHA and by PCT. This information is not available by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. The report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen by quarter for 2006-07 is available in Table Fl of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 4: 31 March 2007". Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Table F2 contains patients seen as a percentage of the population by quarter for 2006-07. This report, published on 19 June 2007, is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4

The number of patients seen in the first three quarters of 2007-08 is available in Table Cl of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007". Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Table C2 contains patients seen as a percentage of the population, for the first three quarters of 2007-08. This report, published on 5 June 2008, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Under the new dental contract, information is not available by constituency.

All of these reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited to his Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if he will make a statement. [206470]

Mr. Bradshaw: For United Kingdom citizens born in the UK, the Department and its agencies (the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) use the Her Majesty's Government Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) for all new entrants. This includes verification of unspent criminal record declarations. We apply the criminal check element of the BPSS through self-declaration, whereby we ask individuals to provide all unspent criminal record information on a Criminal Record Declaration form. Any concerns are followed up.

For UK citizens born abroad, in addition to UK citizens born in the UK we require original documentation to establish proof of residence for time spent abroad. We also ask for an account of any significant periods of time living abroad, i.e. six months or more in the past three years.

For foreign nationals, in addition to UK citizens born abroad we carry out additional checks on eligibility for employment under the Civil Service Commissioners rules on appointment. This generally covers individuals from European Economic Area countries and commonwealth countries. We also check work visas to ensure that the individuals can work in the UK and that the visa covers them for the period of their appointment with the Department.

Epilepsy

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to establish a national monitoring centre to conduct research into sudden unexplained death in epilepsy. [209984]

Ann Keen: The Government have no plans to establish a national monitoring centre to conduct research into sudden unexplained death in epilepsy; however, I have agreed to meet with Epilepsy Bereaved to discuss these issues.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring his Department undertakes of the incidence and causes of sudden unexplained deaths in epilepsy. [209843]

Ann Keen: The Department does not monitor the incidence or causes of sudden unexplained deaths among patients with epilepsy. However, I have agreed to meet with Epilepsy Bereaved to discuss this matter further.

Eyesight: Schools

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of provision of eye tests in schools; whether he plans to increase the number of tests provided in schools; and if he will make a statement. [209196]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of eye tests carried out in schools.

The Child Health Promotion Programme published in April 2008, recommends that all children aged between four and five years should be screened for visual impairment by an orthoptist-led service. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_083645

National health service funded sight tests carried out at high street opticians practices are available for all children under the age of 16 and for young people aged between 16 to 18 in full-time education.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208141]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount of food waste generated in the Department of Health are as follows:

April to March each year	*Tonnes*
2006-07	14.33
2007-08	13.69

Figures for the period prior to April 2006 are not available.

General Practitioners: Lincolnshire

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records he holds of operating surpluses of GP practices in the North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust area. [209132]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not held centrally.

Hemel Hempstead Acute Hospital

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans there are for the future of the *(a)* accident and emergency unit, *(b)* stroke unit, *(c)* cardiac unit, *(d)* intensive care unit and *(e)* high dependency unit at Hemel Hempstead Acute Hospital; and if he will make a statement; [208496]

(2) whether he plans to close specific wards at Hemel Hempstead Acute Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [208497]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Plans for services at Hemel Hempstead hospital are the responsibility of West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. The provision of health services is a matter for the local national health service working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise any concerns with the chief executive of West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

NHS: Cleaning Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1019W, on NHS: cleaning services, if he will provide figures on decontamination reprocessing of surgical instruments and compliance with the standards contained within the Medical Devices Directive (93/42/EEC), broken down by acute trust, indicating where services are *(a)* contracted out to the private sector and *(b)* provided in-house. [206321]

Ann Keen: Where decontamination services are undertaken only for internal use by the same national health service trust or other NHS body, policy requires compliance with the 'essential requirements' of the medical devices directive (93/42 EC) and associated regulations.

Where NHS units provide services to other NHS bodies, or to independent sector providers, they are subject to the full requirements of the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 (SI 618) and 2003 Amendments (SI 1697). In these instances, the unit will be subject to a third party audit programme by a recognised notified body. Notified bodies are designated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency who also regularly audit their performance. The MHRA does not collate or receive information completed by a notified body on its routine audit of such reprocessors. Should a reprocessor no longer comply with the appropriate requirements, the notified body may revoke their approval and inform the MHRA accordingly. This specific information on individual registrations is not available for public disclosure under article 20 of the medical devices directive (93/42 EC).

The Healthcare Commission has regulatory responsibility for health care standards and as part of an annual health check, requires all NHS trusts to assess their performance against a set of core standards which include references to the medical devices directive (MDD) (93/42 EEC), and to publicly declare this information. The Healthcare Commission supplements this self-assessment with feedback from a variety of local stakeholders including patient and public involvement forums, local authority overview and scrutiny committees, strategic health authorities and, in the case of foundation trusts, boards of governors.

The Declarations of Compliance for acute trusts for 2006-07 (the latest available) have been placed in the Library.

Data on the sterile services activity are collected annually from NHS organisations on a voluntary basis for benchmarking purposes and the latest available data have been placed in the Library.

It is the responsibility of each individual NHS trust to make suitable arrangements for decontamination services. Data on the number of trusts who contract this work out are not routinely collected centrally. However, the following trusts are taking part in the NHS National Decontamination Programme:

Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Birmingham Dental Hospital (South Birmingham Primary Care Trust)

Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust

Bradford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust

Christie NHS Hospitals Trust

Good Hope Hospital (now part of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust)

Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

North Cheshire NHS Hospitals Trust

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

South Manchester Foundation Trust

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Trafford Hospital NHS Trust

University Hospitals of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS: Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS consultants per capita there were in *(a)* the Dacorum Borough Council area and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [210157]

Ann Keen: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is held at national health service trust level. Hertfordshire comprises East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust, West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire PCT. Information is not held at borough council level.

The following table shows numbers of NHS medical and dental consultants per 100,000 population in Hertfordshire since 1997.

Hospital and Community Health Services: headcount of medical and dental consultants in Hertfordshire

	Consultants per 100,000 population
1997	37
1998	38
1999	39
2000	40
2001	43
2002	45
2003	46
2004	49
2005	52
2006	52
2007	55

Note:
The majority of consultants work for hospital trusts, which are not defined by geographical boundaries. Consequently it is not possible to calculate the number of consultants per capita by hospital trust.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. Population calculation based on mid year population estimates (2001 Census based) Office for National Statistics.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the running costs of each strategic health authority were in 2007-08. [207645]

Mr. Bradshaw: The running costs allocated to each strategic health authority (SHA) in 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

SHA management costs allocated, 2007-08 (including estates advisers)

	SHA	*£000*
SHAQ30	North East	9,500
SHAQ31	North West	10,392
SHAQ32	Yorkshire and Humberside	9,500
SHAQ33	East Midlands	9,725
SHAQ34	West Midlands	9,839
SHAQ35	East of England	9,844
SHAQ36	London	13,614
SHAQ37	South East Coast	9,738
SHAQ38	South Central	9,726
SHAQ39	South West	9,817
	Total	101,695

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 275W, on nurses: schools, how many nurses are based in schools, broken down by local education authority. [209877]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

A table showing the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) and national health service trusts who employ qualified school nurses from 2004 to 2007 has been placed in the Library. School nurses were identified for the first time in the 2004 annual workforce census.

School nurses are generally employed by PCTs although some school nurses will be directly employed by both state and independent schools. The NHS Workforce Census does not capture these. A number of qualified school nurses will also work coterminously across PCT boundaries but be directly employed by one single PCT.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the names and addresses are of those schools which participated in the Give and Let Live donor education programme in 2007-08; [210162]

(2) to which postholders in secondary schools his Department sent material on the Give and Let Live donor education programme; [210163]

(3) how many hits there have been on the Give and Let Live donor education programme website since it was established. [210164]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) sent a communication to all secondary schools in the United Kingdom about the initiative. The pack was requested by 1,861 schools. Details of the schools participating in the programme are held by NHSBT in accordance with the data management statement produced in conjunction with the schools. NHSBT are unable to release this information.

The 'Give and Let Live' pack was addressed to the heads of Personal Social and Health Education in secondary schools who requested a copy.

Since the 'Give and Let Live' website was established, there have been 463,632 hits. In addition 500 teachers packs have been downloaded from the website.

Palliative Care

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with primary care trusts on funding for hospices; and if he will make a statement; [205001]

(2) what guidance he has provided to primary care trusts on funding for hospices; and if he will make a statement. [205002]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not had any recent discussions with or made representations to primary care trusts (PCTs) regarding funding for hospices.

It is for individual PCTs to decide the level of funding they allocate to end of life care services, including hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for negotiation between the local PCT and the hospice.

The End of Life Care Strategy for adults, due to be published in the summer, will address the needs of patients, carers and families and will consider, among other things, the role of, and funding for hospices.

Publication of the national Strategy was deferred until the summer to allow us to take account of the important work of strategic health authorities on the Next Stage Review. End of life care is also one of the eight pathways that strategic health authorities have been examining as part of their work on the NHS Next Stage Review.

Palliative Care: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of an ageing population on social care budgets in London. [208843]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made any specific assessment of the effect of an aging population on social care budgets in London. The Department commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit to analyse the national demographic pressures in respect of older people. The results of this work were fed into the last comprehensive spending review (2007) and this led to an increase in the monies made available to local authorities. The data will also be used as part of the modelling for the future care delivery system about which the Government have recently gone out for public consultation.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing prescription charges. [209762]

Dawn Primarolo: Abolishing prescription charges in England would result in the loss of income available to the national health service as a result of revenue raised from prescription charges and prescription prepayment certificates. There may be further, unqualified costs because of behavioural changes leading to increases in the total number of prescription items consumed.

For the period April 2006 to March 2007, the revenue raised from prescription charges collected by pharmacists, appliance contractors and from prescription prepayment certificate fees was £411.7 million. This figure excludes charges collected by dispensing doctors and from hospital out-patients, which is estimated to raise revenue of a further £25.8 million for primary care trusts and NHS trusts over the same period.

Suicide: Mentally Ill

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many suicides of mental health patients there were in each mental health trust in each of the last five years. [209299]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data requested are not held centrally.

Information on suicides by people in contact with mental health services is collected by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (NCI).

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has commissioned into aircraft cabin air quality; whether this research was put out to tender; and what the cost was of commissioning such work. [208913]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Research work and costs to date are:

(i) functionality tests to identify equipment capable of capturing fume events in real time. Research published by Cranfield university on 21 February 2008. Cost: £39,169.

(ii) data analysis study of fume events and operational parameters (this work is in progress—final cost expected to be £25,000).

(iii) substantive phase of real time functionality tests on around 100 cargo and passenger flights to assemble data on substances which may be in cabin air during fume events (this work is due to begin later this year—estimated cost of separate-contractual aspects; procurement of equipment, project management, laboratory analysis, expected to total £155,000).

The work was procured under the Department for Transport's single tender procedure as it was new, complex and developmental. We required a project leader to develop the protocols in discussion with Government, the Civil Aviation Authority and airlines. Cranfield university was selected by in discussion with Department of Health, Civil Aviation Authority, BALPA (the main pilots' trade union) and airlines.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to support climate science research on specific aviation-related atmospheric issues to inform technological and operational responses; and what responses have resulted. [209774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport funds aviation related climate change research at Manchester Metropolitan University worth about £350,000 pa. This includes collaborative domestic and international projects on the climate science of aviation emissions and co-leading a major international workshop to assess aviation's environmental impacts.

A further example of collaboration is the EUs funded programme ATTICA which is assessing transports impacts on climate change. This ensures that the Department's scientific advice reflects the contribution of other sectors such as the marine sector, power generation and roads.

The Government are supporting project OMEGA, a grouping of seven universities, co-ordinating UK research and dissemination of a wide range of aviations environmental issues in partnership with stakeholders.

The Department also supports a PhD studentship at Oxford University investigating the Microphysics and Aviation Induced Cirrus Cloud.

Application of these investigations through advanced technology and operational changes is for the long-term.

Aviation: Scotland

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008 to the hon. Member for Bournemouth East, *Official Report*, columns 1379-80W, on aviation: Scotland, what estimate she has made of the percentage of passengers departing from airports in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and flying to the United States who flew *(a)* directly, *(b)* via another UK airport and *(c)* via another airport in Europe in the latest period for which figures are available. [209261]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following three tables show percentage of passengers departing from airports in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and flying to the United States.

Passengers departing from airports in England (based on eight surveyed airports[1]) in 2006

	Number/ percentage
Flying directly to the United States (Percentage)	96
Flying to the United States transferring through another UK airport (Percentage)	1
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in Europe (Percentage)	2
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in other countries (Percentage)	1
Total passengers to and from USA (Million)	17.4

[1] England airports surveyed in 2006: Birmingham, East Midlands, London City, Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Manchester and Stansted.

Passengers departing from airport in Wales (based on a survey at Cardiff) in 2003

	Number/ percentage
Flying directly to the United States (Percentage)	49
Flying to the United States transferring through another UK airport (Percentage)	0
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in Europe (Percentage)	51
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in other countries (Percentage)	0
Total passengers to and from USA (Thousand)	37

Passengers departing from airports in Northern Ireland (based on three surveyed airports[1]) in 2006

	Number/ percentage
Flying directly to the United States (Percentage)	64
Flying to the United States transferring through another UK airport (Percentage)	35
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in Europe (Percentage)	2
Flying to the United States transferring through another airport based in other countries (Percentage)	0
Total passengers to and from USA (Thousand)	179

[1] Northern Ireland airports surveyed in 2006: Belfast City, Belfast International and City of Derry

Source:

Civil Aviation Authority

Bus Services: Concessions

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy objectives are of requiring pensioners to renew their concessionary bus passes in 2011; and what the expected cost is of this policy. [209686]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The requirement to have an expiry date on passes is intended to help prevent fraudulent use of passes by ensuring that no pass can simply be used indefinitely.

The expiry date must be no more that five years from the date of issue, but local authorities are free to choose any expiry date within that period. This approach allows local authorities to stagger the expiry dates of passes issued in April 2008 in order to avoid having to re-issue all passes on the same date in five years' time.

We consulted on the proposal to include an expiry date in 2007. Over 90 per cent. of respondents agreed that there should be an expiry date and over 80 per cent. agreed that five years was an appropriate time.

Of those who did not agree, nearly half felt it should be shorter than five years. The majority of responses to the consultation were received from local authorities, who are responsible for issuing, and paying for, passes.

We estimate that the cost of producing a pass is around £2 per pass though it is not possible to give a definite figure as there are a number of different suppliers who charge varying prices. Just over six million people have received passes to date. It should be recognised that the cost of requiring passes to be renewed regularly will result in saving in the reduction of fraud.

Cycling: Children

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in her Department's review of the wearing of cycle helmets by children; and when the review will be published. [208779]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is commissioning a new research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. This will examine the following topics:

road user safety and cycling data;

cycling infrastructure;

attitudes and behaviours; and

bicycle helmets.

The research project as a whole is likely to be three years in duration, but we are aiming to complete the review of cycle helmet effectiveness within two years, so by late 2009.

The Department published the 2006 cycle helmet wearing survey shortly in February. The project report and the research summary 'findings' can be found online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/cyclehelmets.pdf

and

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/report84findings.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206545]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport have recorded the following split between UK citizens and foreign nationals:

	UK citizens	*Foreign nationals*	*Not stated*	*Total*
2007-08	14,844	210	994	16,048
2006-07	14,897	207	823	15,927
2005-06	15,235	226	1,024	16,485
2004-05[1]	11,506	110	1,215	12,831
2003-04[1]	11,086	119	1,248	12,453

[1] The DSA can provide figures only for the last three financial years

Neither the Central Department or its agencies could distinguish between UK citizens born in the UK *(a)* and those UK citizens born abroad *(b)*.

These figures exclude the Highways Agency who do not record these data electronically. Obtaining this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1062-6W, on departmental public participation, how much each *(a)* survey and *(b)* piece of qualitative research cost; and how many participants there were in each.[1] [206030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The additional information requested about services by polling companies to the Department in 2007-08 is included in the tables.

As before these included ongoing surveys (table A), ad-hoc surveys (table B) and qualitative research (table C). Additional information has become available since the response to PQ 2579 and the tables have been amended to reflect this.

Table A: Ongoing surveys

Division/agency	*Survey/opinion poll*	*(i) Firm*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of participants*
DfT	British social attitudes survey	NatCen	80,000	3,600
DfT	Bus passenger satisfaction survey	GfK NOP	155,000	[1]12,000
Off	Public attitudes towards road pricing	ONS	81,700	2,290
DfT	Public attitudes towards climate change	ONS	[2]51,284	2,252
DfT	THINK! Tracking Research	BMRB	323,120	[3]1,000 to 2,000
DfT	Climate Change Pre and Post advertising tracking	BMRB	171,197	[4]1,226
				[4]1,225
				[4]1,234
DfT	Act on $C0_2$ campaign awareness tracking	BMRB	46,900	1,199
DfT	Directgov motoring awareness and usage omnibus	BMRB	48,000	2,000
DfT	Operators Survey 2007	Ipsos-MORI	68,000	700
DfT	Customer Satisfaction Survey—GCDA	Ipsos MORI	22,000	[5]140
DfT	Citizen's Panel	GFK NOP	22,975	606
HA	National road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell	530,000	1,863
HA	Area road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell	540,000	11,088
HA	Satisfaction with traffic officer service	Faber Maunsell	20,000	1,200
HA	Measuring improvements in network and information services	Faber Maunsell	60,000	2,139
HA	VMS Accuracy	Faber Maunsell	30,000	1281
DSA	Candidate Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI	79,950	1,505
DSA	Business Customer Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI	110,800	2,960
DSA	PDI Satisfaction Survey	Ipsos-MORI	68,750	1,042
MCA	Coastguard Customer Satisfaction Survey (ongoing but not run in 2007-08)	Amey PMG	3,819	2,000
MCA	Registry of Shipping and Seamen	Amey PMG	5,981	[6]619
VGA	Type Approval Customer Satisfaction	Metra Martech	1,500	113
DVLA	DVLA Call Centre Mystery Shopper Research	Vocall	16,000	2,000
DVLA	Private Motorist Survey	Beaufort Research	14,720	1,000
DfT	Public Attitudes towards Transport Security Questionnaire	NatCen	0	1,530
VOSA	Drivers and fitters annual Customer satisfactions survey	Ipsos-MORI	82,000	1,620

1 3,000 per wave.
2 £102,484 for both sweeps.
3 Per survey.
4 Per wave.
5 Minimum.
6 Individual seafarers.

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[1] [*Official Report*, 22 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 5MC.]

Table B: Ad-hoc surveys 2007-08

Division/agency	*Survey/opinion poll*	*(i) Firm*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of participants*
DfT	Public attitude towards car sharing	NatCen	38,250	1,530
DfT	Public attitude towards buses and concessionary fares	ONS	35,384	729
DfT	Public attitudes towards Crime on public Transport	NatCen	110,700	c.3,100
DfT	Pre drink drive, Post speed, post mobiles	BMRB	38,695	2,000
DfT	Post tracking Teen MTV Campaign	SMRC Childwise	27,613	1,000 pre
				1,000 post
DfT	Pre and post tracking Parents' Campaign	SMRC Childwise	42,770	1,000 pre
				1,000 post
DfT	THINK! Parents Campaign	Virtual surveys	13,395	820
DfT	THINK! Seatbelts	TRL	[1]179,581	5,063
DfT	Post speed	BMRB	26,500	2000
DfT	Christmas Drink Drive online	Leo Burnett	3,521	484
DfT	PR Bus survey	Tickbox	7,937	1,094
DfT	BSB 07 Season Evaluation and Functional Biker research	TNS	64,566	900
DfT	Customers Expectations of Service Standards	ORC	44,000	733
DfT	Consumer customers' channel choice	TNS	48,000	1000
DfT	Commercial customers' channel choice	Simpson Carpenter	55,000	
DfT	Survey of the UK element of EU provision of drink drive rehabilitations schemes	TRL	6,847	1,028
DfT	Neighbourhood Road Safety initiatives project—surveys in schools and Hospitals	University College London (lead supplier), University of Surrey, University of the West of England, University of Wales Swansea, Child Accident Prevention Trust	[2]1,034,309	[3]5,000
				[4]200
DfT	Demand for cars and their attributes	BMRB—conducted the survey element	39,125	900
DfT	Use of Advanced Cabin Baggage X-ray equipment.	QinetiQ	8,000	210
DfT	Analysis for Heathrow Consultation	Ipsos-MORI and Detica	—	[5]—
DfT	Survey of Blue Badge Holders	Faber Maunsell	55,297	[6]1,000
DfT	Survey of Blue Badge Holders attitudes and behaviours	BMRB	26,396	[6]790
HA	Satisfaction with traffic management trial at junctions 19 and 12 of M25	Faber Maunsell	47,000	1,000
HA	Highways Agency Travel Information Services Omnibus	GfK NOP	13,000	1,002
DSA	Driver CPC research	Ipsos MORI	69,659	3,014
VOSA	2 Stations test trial	Beaufort Research	6,000	557
DVLA	Local Office Customer Survey	MORI	75,450	1,409
DVLA	Electronic Delivery Channel Research	Beaufort Research	15,570	1,762
DVLA	Theft Resistant Number Plate	Beaufort Research	10,670	1,000
DVLA	EVL Postcard Research	Beaufort Research	7,330	500
DVLA	3D Verification by VISA	MRUK	9,300	1,145
DVLA	Ten Year Renewal Phase 2 Post Office Research	Beaufort Research	10,750	1,000
DVLA	Motoring Brand Awareness Omnibus Research	TNS (via COI)	5,800	1,000

[1] Includes qualitative research.
[2] Total cost of contract that included these surveys.
[3] Schools.
[4] Hospitals.
[5] In progress.
[6] Blue Badge holders.

Table C: Qualitative research 2007-08

Division/agency	*Projects*	*(i) Firm*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of participants*
DfT	Attitudes and motivations of teleworkers	NatCen	86,700	49
DfT	Travel needs behaviours and aspirations of Disabled People	NatCen	97,599	45
DfT	Directgov Motoring Usability research	Virtual Surveys	11,000	11
DfT	Transport Office/Business Link Usability research	Virtual Surveys	35,000	31
DfT	Public acceptability of Road Pricing	BMRB	566,111	446

Table C: Qualitative research 2007-08

Division/agency	*Projects*	*(1) Firm*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of participants*
DfT	Public Acceptability of New Technologies	Accent	34,822	148
DfT	The Role of the Car	Nat Cen	98,834	[1]15 [2]44
DfT	Qualitative depth interviews with Blue Badge Holders	Faber Maunsell	22,841	35
DfT	Exploring Public attitudes to personal carbon dioxide emission information	BMRB	87,034	178
DfT	Wider public's view of Blue Badge scheme	Faber Maunsell	13,400	50
DfT	Understanding travel needs, behaviour and aspirations of people in later life	NatCen	100,819	68
DfT	Understanding travel aspirations, needs and behaviour of young adults	NatCen	109,831	[1]12 [2]36
DfT	Accessibility Planning -Evaluation scoping study	Atkins and CRSP	88,057	[4]4
DfT	Attitudes to Climate change and Barriers / motivations to behavioural change	People, science and Policy	411,500	141
DVLA	Ten Year Renewal Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research	7,800	16
DVLA	EVL Creative Advertising Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research	7,800	32
DVLA	EVL Web Design Focus Group Research	Beaufort Research	7,800	32
HA	Mystery Shopping of HA Information Services	Faber Maunsell	20,000	55
HA	Evaluation of Think Ahead Move Ahead booklet	Faber Maunsell	14,000	598
HA	Evaluation of Think Ahead Move Ahead booklet (Part 2)	Faber Maunsell	23,000	51
VOSA	Service agents Qualitative Research	Simpson Carter	30,000	25
Off	Child and parents research	Murmur	35,845	70
DfT	Drink Drive	Davies McKerr	28,670	48
DfT	Driving for Work	Firefish/AMV	48,469	52
DfT	Qualitative Halls for 2008 bus concessions	Cragg Dawson Ross	4,900	20
DfT	Christmas Drink Drive Radio	Leo Burnett/Ciao	13,571	24
DfT	Child creative development research	Leo Burnett/Firefish	[5]65,154	88
DfT	Mobiles viral research	Dynamic Logic	5,280	100

[1] Focus groups.
[2] In-depth interviews.
[3] Focus groups, (approximately eight per group).
[4] Case studies.
[5] Including VAT.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average fine was imposed for the offence of use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in the most recent year for which figures are available. [209562]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 934W.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1417W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at her Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209020]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following products are available for purchase in the Department's staff catering facilities:

Green leaf juices;
Green and Blacks Chocolate;
Divine Chocolate;
Geobars;
Flapjacks;
Tea;
Filter coffee;
Sugar;
Hot chocolate.

Fairtrade tea, filter coffee and hot chocolate are offered at official departmental meetings and engagements.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1383-4W, on Heathrow airport, what the local environmental limits which the Government have set are; how these limits were determined; and what account was taken of them in *(a)* the technical studies conducted by her Department to assess the scope for developing Heathrow since 2003 and *(b)* the consultation document, Adding Capacity at Heathrow airport. [209251]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The local environmental limits were set out clearly in our recent consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" (page 8). They flow from commitments made in the Air Transport White Paper 2003, which also explains their rationale. Both documents are available on the Department's website. These constraints have informed all of the Department's work on Heathrow development options.

London Underground: Public Private Partnership

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 113, on London Underground, who undertook the work on comparative analysis of the public private partnership versus conventional public sector-led procurement referred to by the Minister of State in her Department at column 114; what *(a)* account was taken and *(b)* weight given to the potential for the private partner to go into administration by (i) those undertaking the work and (ii) each independent scrutineer of the work and methodology on which it was based; and if she will place in the Library copies of the reports of (1) KPMG, (2) Ernst and Young and (3) the National Audit Office on this matter. [195163]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Work on the comparative analysis of the public-private partnership versus conventional public sector-led procurement was led by London Underground, with assistance from various organisations including KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ove Arup. Ernst and Young also undertook a separate, independent analysis on behalf of the then Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

The potential for a PPP company to enter administration was fully considered during the construction, analysis and procurement of the PPPs and was reflected in both the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and the contracts themselves.

The Ernst and Young report, "London Underground PPPs Value for money Review—Independent Review for the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions", was placed in the House Libraries when it was published on 7 February 2002. All National Audit Office reports, including their report, "The Financial Analysis for the London Underground Public Private Partnerships", published on 15 December 2000, are placed in the Libraries when they are published. On 31 March 2000, KPMG wrote to London Underground giving their "Final Assessment Report" into the PPPs and this included analysis of the public sector comparator and my officials are seeking London Underground's views as to whether or not this report can now be placed in the House Library.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals relating to Traffic Commissioner decisions on *(a)* public service and *(b)* heavy goods vehicle licensing matters have been (i) submitted to, (ii) heard by, (iii) upheld by and (iv) rejected by the Transport Tribunal. [208870]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In the period between January 2003 to 6 June 2008, the following appeals against Traffic Commissioner decisions have been received and heard by the Transport Tribunal.

	Public service	*Heavy good vehicles*
Submitted	134	509
Heard	98	342
Allowed	38	96
Dismissed	60	233

The difference between those submitted and those heard (203 cases total) account for the proportion of cases that have been withdrawn and/or settled. In addition, 13 appeals relating to heavy goods vehicles licensing matters have been referred back to the Traffic Commissioner for further consideration.

Official Cars: Standards

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* advertised and *(b)* actual fuel consumption in (i) imperial and (ii) metric measures are of each main model of car used by the Government car service for Ministers. [208737]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency's average fuel consumption figures for the main vehicles in its ministerial fleet areas are as follows:

	Jaguar 2.7 V6 Diesel	*Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v*	*Toyota Prius*	*Honda Civic 1.4 IMA ES*
Urban (mpg)	26.0	29.7	65.7	54.3
Extra Urban (mpg)	43.7	52.3	67.3	65.7
Combined (mpg)	35.0	40.9	56.5	61.4
GCDA Average (mpg)	26.03	36.16	42.15	31.89
Urban (1/100km)	10.8	9.5	4.3	5.2
Extra Urban (1/100km)	6.5	5.4	4.2	4.3
Combined (1/100km)	8.1	6.9	5.0	4.6
GCDA Average (1/100km)	10.85	7.81	6.70	8.85

Parking

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions apply to a local authority in granting a commercial parking permit in a controlled parking zone. [208731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not impose restrictions on local authorities in respect of granting parking permits, either to individuals or classes of vehicle, on any part of the public highway.

Such matters are for local decision, and local authorities have powers under Section 45 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to issue permits to people or vehicles as specified in a Traffic Regulation Order; having regard to amenity and local conditions.

Ports: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers *(a)* entered and *(b)* left each port in Wales in the last 12 years; and what tonnage of (i) imports and (ii) exports there was from each port in each year. [209845]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Railways: South East

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1120W, to the hon. Member for Lewes, on railways: South East, what guidance her Department has issued to Network Rail on the development of timetables to facilitate the delivery of the East London line extension and the construction of the Thameslink project; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [209260]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail has a requirement to develop a timetable to deliver the track access rights granted by the Office of Rail Regulation to Transport for London to facilitate the East London Line extension project phase 1, due to open in 2010. The Department has submitted no specific guidance to Network Rail in this regard.

Network Rail has recently developed the South London Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS). This study, developed with all members of the rail industry, has provided a forum for discussions from all parties about how the East London services should be implemented, including required changes to other services.

As part of the RUS process, Network Rail has assessed the possible timetable implications of platform reductions at London Bridge to facilitate the construction of the Thameslink scheme.

The South London RUS document is available on the Network Rail website:

www.networkrail.co.uk

Railways: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department has on the estimated average journey time by rail from Cardiff to Bangor in each of the last 12 years. [209904]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following was the average journey time by direct train service (Mondays to Fridays) from Cardiff to Bangor in each of the last 12 years (shown by date of National Rail timetable):

Timetable date	*Average journey time*
May 2008 to December 2008	4 hours 28 minutes
December 2007 to May 2008	4 hours 28 minutes
May 2007 to December 2007	4 hours 28 minutes
December 2006 to May 2007	4 hours 27 minutes
June 2006 to December 2006	4 hours 29 minutes
December 2005 to June 2006	4 hours 29 minutes
June 2005 to December 2005	4 hours 24 minutes
December 2004 to June 2005	4 hours 25 minutes
May 2004 to December 2004	4 hours 26 minutes
September 2003 to May 2004	4 hours 24 minutes
May 2003 to September 2003	4 hours 26 minutes
September 2002 to May 2003	4 hours 26 minutes
June 2002 to September 2002	4 hours 13 minutes
September 2001 to June 2002	4 hours 9 minutes
May 2001 to September 2001	4 hours 17 minutes
September 2000 to May 2001	4 hours 9 minutes
May 2000 to September 2000	4 hours 14 minutes
September 1999 to May 2000	4 hours 13 minutes
May 1999 to September 1999	4 hours 13 minutes
September 1998 to May 1999	4 hours 15 minutes
May 1998 to September 1998	4 hours 14 minutes
September 1997 to May 1998	4 hours 16 minutes
June 1997 to September 1997	4 hours 20 minutes
September 1996 to June 1997	4 hours 22 minutes
June 1996 to September 1996	4 hours 22 minutes

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department has allocated which has been used for the rail network in Wales in each of the last 12 years. [209905]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold the information requested. However HM Treasury produce analyses of public expenditure, including that spent on rail according to the country or region of the UK for whose benefit the expenditure has been incurred. This is published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 (PESA) and is available on the HM Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spendingstatistics/pes_publications/pespub_pesa08.cfm

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the maintenance of trunk roads in the metropolitan borough of Rotherham in each year since 2000. [209226]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is estimated that in the metropolitan borough of Rotherham the Highways Agency (HA) spends approximately £560,000 per year on the M1 and M18 motorways on routine maintenance activities such as litter picking, grass cutting, winter maintenance, sweeping and routine inspections of the carriageways, safety fences and structures such as bridges and culverts.

There are no all-purpose trunk roads in the borough.

As well as routine maintenance activities the following table shows the amount the HA spent on large scale maintenance on the M1 in the metropolitan borough of Rotherham since 2003. Due to a change of contractors in 2003, there is no data available between 2000 and 2003.

Spend on maintenance between 2000 - to date in the metropolitan borough of Rotherham

	Scheme	*Spend (£)*
2000-03	[1]—	[1]—
2003-04	—	0
2004-05	M1 Junction 32-33 bridge repairs	194,000
2005-06	—	0
2006-07	M1 Junction 32-33 road renewal £2.36 million and M1 Junction 31-32 Road renewal £0.62 million	2.98 million
2007-08	—	0

[1] No information available due to change of contractor.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been provided to the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham for the purposes of highways maintenance in each year since 2000. [209227]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding support allocated to Rotherham metropolitan borough council by the Department for capital highway maintenance for each year since 2000 is shown in the following table. It is for Rotherham metropolitan borough council to decide how the funding is spent in line with their priorities.

	Funding (£000)
1999-2000	1,102
2000-01	1,809
2001-02	3,124
2002-03	3,297
2003-04	2,473
2004-05	2,885
2005-06	2,291
2006-07	3,917
2007-08	2,009
2008-09	2,164
2009-10	2,188
2010-11	2,516

These sums include annual formulaic allocations, bid-based funding for certain exceptional schemes costing less than £5 million and capital repairs to detrunked roads.

Rotherham metropolitan borough council have also been allocated resource funding for maintenance of detrunked roads, set out as follows.

	Funding (£000)
2008-09	145
2009-10	149
2010-11	152

The authority submitted a claim for emergency capital highway maintenance funding in relation to the summer 2007 floods and were allocated £102,000 in 2007-08.

In addition, central funding support for services, including routine highways services, is provided by Communities and Local Government through the revenue support grant. This funding is not ringed fenced.

Taxis: Complaints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints have been made about licensed taxi drivers in each licensing authority in the last five years; and how many of these complaints have led to *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* loss of licence. [208662]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not keep a central record of complaints made to licensing authorities against taxi drivers and any subsequent action. If a licensing authority receives a complaint against an individual taxi driver, it is a matter for that authority to decide how to proceed in dealing with the complaint.

Taxis: Licensing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed taxis operating in each licensing authority area; [208632]

(2) what steps she is taking to *(a)* promote the use of licensed taxis and *(b)* discourage the use of unlicensed taxis. [208665]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We carry out surveys of local authorities, including information about the number of vehicles and drivers licensed in each local licensing authority area. The latest statistics, from March 2007, are on the Department's website. There were 73,328 taxis licensed in England and Wales at that time; there were also 132,505 private hire vehicles (PHVs—usually known as "minicabs").

In order to offer a taxi or PHV service lawfully, the vehicle and the driver must be licensed; in the case of PHVs, there is an additional requirement for the operator to be licensed. It is for the relevant local authority to make an assessment of the extent of illegal operation in their area, and take appropriate enforcement action where necessary. We do not keep a central record of any such assessments.

The Department is responsible for the legislative framework within which licensing authorities license taxis and within which taxis provide a service. We also issue guidance to local authorities about how they might best use their licensing powers.

Our primary aim in carrying out this responsibility is to ensure public safety through the licensing regime.

The Best Practice Guidance which we published in 2006 is designed to assist local licensing authorities in formulating suitable local policies.

While the Department takes steps to ensure that the legislation and the guidance promote the use of licensed taxis, it is a matter for the local licensing authority to deal with actual instances of unlicensed taxi/PHV activity. There is a strong deterrent in place—the legislation allows a maximum fine of £2,500 for a person who is convicted of illegal plying for hire or taxi touting.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve regulation of licensed taxi drivers; and if she will make a statement. [208661]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The legislation governing taxi (and private hire vehicle—PHV, minicab) licensing places on local licensing authorities a statutory duty to ensure that any person to whom they grant a taxi or PHV driver licence is a fit and proper person. Local authorities have responsibility for deciding what constitutes 'fit and proper', for the standards that they impose for the grant of a licence and for subsequent enforcement.

The Department has provided Best Practice Guidance to assist local licensing authorities in carrying out their taxi licensing responsibilities. The Guidance includes advice about assessing taxi driver licence applicants. It can be found on the Department's website.

We have also taken steps to enhance training opportunities for licensed taxi and PHV drivers. This includes providing financial support for the work of Go Skills, the sector skills council for the road transport industry in this area.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements are in place on taxi licensing authorities with regard to Criminal Records Bureau checks on applicants. [208663]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Taxi licensing authorities must satisfy themselves that any person to whom they grant a taxi or private hire vehicle (PHV) driver licence is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. As part of this assessment, authorities can make use of information on an applicant's criminal record. Taxi and PHV drivers are listed as Exceptions to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that taxi licensing authorities are entitled to take spent convictions into account in assessing taxi and PHV driver licence applicants. Consequently, they can request either a standard disclosure or an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. The actual level of check will depend on the type of work which the driver is likely to undertake when they are licensed. However, the Department understands that authorities typically require enhanced disclosure.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many taxi licensing authorities are in operation; and how many taxis were issued with a licence in each of the last five years. [208664]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are 343 taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing authorities in England and Wales.

In the course of the past five years, the Department has carried out surveys of licensing authorities; these were in 2007, 2005 and 2004.

The numbers of vehicles licensed in each case were:

As at March each year	*Taxis*	*PHVs*
2004	66,684	80,809
2005	67,814	123,451[1]
2007	73,328	132,505

[1] PHV licensing in London was introduced in 2004 so the 2005 figure takes account of the PHVs licensed in London for the first time.

Floods: Hull

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many transport-related applications for assistance from the funds announced by the Government to aid reconstruction following the floods in (a) Hull and (b) Gloucestershire in 2007 have been approved and paid; and how much has been paid in total. [208628]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

In response to the 2007 summer floods CLG has allocated and transferred flood recovery grant (FRG) of £2,762,000 to Hull and £2,763,000 to local authorities in Gloucestershire. Flood recovery grant is unringfenced so local authorities have had the flexibility to decide how to best to use the grant based on their own local circumstances. Allocations of FRG were made on the basis of the best available data held by local authorities at the time on the number of households affected by flooding.

Following the summer 2007 floods, DSCF made available £3,214,424 to Hull, and £1,007,900 to Gloucestershire. These sums, which could be used for a range of purposes relating to schools and children's services, have already been transferred to the local authorities. DCSF's payments to local authorities were calculated according to a formula based on the number of schools severely, significantly or slightly damaged by the floods, the number of flooded homes, and the number of pupils in flooded schools—the latter two indicators to act as a proxy for the impact on other services for children, young people and families.

DCSF is discussing with Hull an application for exceptional capital funding for costs arising from the floods; the amount of this application is currently under discussion, and nothing has yet been paid. There has been no claim from Gloucestershire for such funding.

An initial claim submitted by Gloucestershire county council under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highways maintenance scheme has been processed and the £10.048 million allocated has been transferred to the authority. The funding received by the authority covers mainly repairs to landslips, roads, footways, structures, drainage and traffic signals.

Gloucestershire has submitted evidence to support a further claim which the Department for Transport is considering. They expect the authority to submit additional evidence to support further repair works in due course.

Kingston Upon Hull city council has not submitted a claim under the Department for Transport's emergency capital highways maintenance scheme.

In addition Hull has received Bellwin payments amounting to £2,097,817 and Gloucestershire (this includes the county council, police authority and relevant district councils) has received £4,447,964 in Bellwin payments. Bellwin is a scheme of emergency financial assistance to help local authorities meet uninsurable costs they incur when dealing with the aftermath of an emergency in their area, rather than to fund recovery.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many cases involving equal shared care the Child Support Agency is dealing with; and in how many of those cases the father is the parent with care; [207833]

(2) how many cases involving shared residence orders the Child Support Agency is dealing with; and in how many of those cases the father is the parent with care. [207834]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases involving equal shared care the Child Support Agency is dealing with; and in how many of those cases the father is the parent with care. [207833]; and

How many cases involving shared residence orders the Child Support Agency is dealing with; and in how many of those cases the father is the parent with care. [207834]

The level of information the Child Support Agency holds on cases with shared care differs between old and new scheme cases, and does not classify cases as involving equal shared care as you have requested. Information on shared care for old scheme cases maintained on the new computer system (CS2) is not available. Such information as is available is set out in the attached tables.

The Agency does not hold information on the number of cases with a shared residence order issued by the Courts.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Table 1: New scheme cases maintained on CS2 broken down by shared care arrangements and gender of the parent with care: March 2008

Parent with care	*Shared care arrangement*
Female	105,700
Male	8,700

Notes:
1. Includes all new scheme cases with a calculation, including positive and nil calculations.
2. A shared care arrangement is defined as a case where the child spends at least 52 nights per year with the non resident parent.
3. There are a number of cases on both computer systems where the case is flagged as having shared care, but there are no qualifying children on the case. We have assumed that these are old shared cases i.e. arrears only cases where a shared care arrangement was previously in place, and have removed these from the figures provided.
4. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Table 2: Old scheme cases maintained on CSCS broken down by number of nights a child spends with the non-resident parent: March 2008

	Parent with care	
Number of nights child spends with non resident parent	*Male*	*Female*
0 to 1	15,000	357,400
2	1,500	26,600
3+	700	8,300

Notes:
1. Includes all old system (CSCS) cases with a calculation, including positive and nil calculations.
2. Cases where the child spends one night per week with the non-resident parent is recorded as 0 nights on the old system. The two categories can therefore not be separated.
3. Shared care information is not available for old rules cases held on the new computer (CS2) system.
4. There are a number of cases on both computer systems where the case is flagged as having shared care, but there are no qualifying children on the case. We have assumed that these are old shared cases i.e. arrears only cases where a shared care arrangement was previously in place, and have removed these from the figures provided.
5. The NRP is the parent who provides less day to day care for the child than the other parent. If both parents provide equal amounts of care for the child, the NRP is identified as the parent who is not receiving child benefit. If neither parent receives child benefit, a decision must be made on which parent provides less care in order to determine which is the NRP. In a small number of cases an NRP may have shared care for more than three nights but be treated as having less day to day care.
6. Figures rounded to nearest 100.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the merits of defining both parents as a parent with care in cases of equal shared care. [207835]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are continuing to consider how these cases should be dealt with. This is an issue that will fall for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission once it is established.

Employment and Support Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the proposed employment support allowance. [207824]

Mr. Timms: We have received numerous representations on employment and support allowance. These have included questions from hon. Members and Lords, and correspondence from hon. Members, organisations, and members of the public.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the employment support allowance on people who have worked and paid national insurance contributions and have no partner and have no other income or savings. [207825]

Mr. Timms: Single people who have paid sufficient national insurance contributions will be entitled to claim contribution-based employment and support allowance. The basic rate of employment and support allowance will be £84.50 a week for those entitled to the work-related activity component and £89.50 for those entitled to the support component. These basic rates are the same for people on both the income-related and contribution-based benefit. Those in the support group on income-related employment and support allowance will also be automatically passported to the enhanced disability premium.

People on contribution-based employment and support allowance who have no other income will need to apply separately for other benefits, such as help with NHS prescription charges, as is the case currently for those who are not in receipt of income-related benefits. However, providing they have no other income or capital, a person in this situation would be eligible for maximum housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Housing Benefit: East Riding of Yorkshire

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Beverley and Holderness will be affected by the decision of the Rent Service to review the Broad Rental Market Areas in the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [208056]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms he has put in place to measure progress towards the target of reducing the number receiving incapacity benefit by one million by 2015; and whether such mechanisms will measure total *(a)* off-flow and *(b)* net reductions. [198774]

Mrs. McGuire: Our aim is to reduce the case load by one million over a decade, starting from May 2005. We publish statistics for incapacity benefits on a quarterly basis, covering both off-flows and case loads. These data provide an effective mechanism for assessing progress towards our goals.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average pension paid from occupational pension schemes was in each year since 1997, expressed in real terms in 1997 prices. [205497]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available.

Information on the amount of occupational pension received by people of pension age since 1997 can be found in table 3.7 of the publication "The Pensioners' Incomes Series 2005/06 (Revised)" which may be found in the Library.

Poverty: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children who would be lifted out of poverty if all households claimed in full their entitlement of council tax credit. [185915]

Mr. Plaskitt: To date, around 200,000 children have been lifted out of poverty as a result of their households claiming council tax benefit. Just under 50,000 further children would be lifted out of poverty if all households claimed their full entitlement to council tax benefit.

We have put in place measures to ensure take-up is improved generally and this includes young families. For example, we have simplified the application process to ensure that families can claim council tax benefit in a combined process alongside claims for income support and jobseeker's allowance. This means that they do not have to contact the council to make a separate claim for council tax benefit.

We have also run promotional campaigns in each of the last five years to increase awareness of council tax benefit. In March 2008, regional press advertising was used to promote uptake of council tax benefit, aimed at pensioners and people of working age, with greatest focus in areas where our data suggest take-up may be low. We also provided marketing materials promoting council tax benefit to local authorities to be included in council tax bills.

Notes:

1. Households are defined as being in poverty if their income is less than 60 per cent. of the national median equivalised income level. Income here is measured on a before housing costs basis.

2. These figures have been derived using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These are estimated indicative figures.

3. The PSM models the calculation of individual taxes and income-related benefit entitlement, by deriving detailed microdata from the latest available FRS.

4. The PSM models the current policy year (2007-08) using the latest FRS data (2005-06), by uprating the FRS to represent the appropriate policy year.

5. This estimated 50,000 is a relatively small change and should be treated with caution.

Social Fund: Funerals

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent from the Social Fund on *(a)* funeral costs and *(b)* doctors' fees associated with funeral costs in the last three years for which figures are available. [209976]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding doctors' fees associated with funeral costs is not available. The information on expenditure on Social Fund funeral payments is in the following table.

Total gross expenditure on social fund funeral payments in Great Britain

	Expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	45.4
2006-07	46.0
2007-08	46.0

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to tackle welfare dependency. [208864]

Mr. Timms: Our plans to tackle welfare dependency are set out in 'Ready for Work: Full employment in our generation' which was published on 13 December 2007. Copies are available in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the value of benefits stopped following investigation of reports to the Benefit Fraud Hotline was in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by type of benefit; and if he will make a statement; [206008]

(2) how many convictions for benefit fraud relating to each type of benefit were made arising from reports to the Benefit Fraud Hotline in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [206011]

(3) how many prosecutions for benefit fraud relating to each type of benefit were brought following investigation of reports to the Benefit Fraud Hotline in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [206012]

(4) how many cases of benefit fraud relating to each type of benefit arising from reports to the Benefit Fraud Hotline were formally investigated in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [206013]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by benefit type. The available information is in the following table.

Benefit fraud hotline outcomes, Great Britain

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Investigations (Number)	47,650	50,000	62,886	51,458	54,284
Prosecutions (Number)	696	699	811	679	910
Convictions (Number)	641	655	719	533	664
Recoverable Overpayments (£)	18,177,645	17,708,947	13,881,781	13,197,041	17,923,183

Notes:
1. Figures from 2003 to 2007 include only FIBS (fraud information by sector) data on national benefit fraud hotline reports via telephone and internet.
2. 2007-08 figures also include FRAIMS (fraud referral and intervention management system) figures with the exception of 'convictions' as this information is not yet available.

Social Security Benefits: Separation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure his Department incurred in the payment of benefits to individuals who have separated from their partner after a period of cohabitation in the latest period for which figures are available. [208415]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Training

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the 16-hour rule on take-up of employment and skills opportunities. [203348]

Mr. Timms: Recipients of jobseeker's allowance are not allowed to study or train full time while in receipt of that benefit. The '16-hour rule' allows jobseeker's allowance recipients to take up part-time study and training for up to 16 hours (the standard number of weekly guided learning hours for a full-time course funded by the Learning and Skills Council, the primary source of funding for further education in England), if they remain available for work and are actively seeking work. We are aware that many jobseeker's allowance recipients take advantage of such part-time activities.

We have not assessed the impact of this rule on the take up of pre-employment study and training opportunities. Such an assessment would give us only a partial picture of the reasons why jobseeker's allowance recipients may not take up pre-employment opportunities. Others are the associated costs of learning, such as child care and travel; family circumstances, health; and past experience of learning.

The November Green Paper included announcements to enable access to limited full-time training while on benefit. Further details will be announced in due course.

Unemployment: Foreign Workers

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to migrant workers from A8 countries who subsequently become unemployed in this country. [206469]

Mr. Timms: Once an A8 migrant has completed 12 months continuous employment as a registered worker those who remain in the labour market have the same rights to access Jobcentre Plus services including benefit support and advice, as other EEA and UK nationals.

TREASURY

Bank Notes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will improve the water resistance of bank notes. [209228]

Kitty Ussher: The Bank of England's banknotes are already made from special paper that is treated during the production process to make it more water resistant, and give it significantly more strength when wet than commercially available paper.

The Bank of England has no plans to improve the water resistance of banknotes further.

The Bank of England offers a free-of-charge service for members of the public to be able to claim value on any accidentally damaged, mutilated or contaminated Bank of England notes. The Bank will give value for the notes provided there are sufficient fragments or remains.

Corporation Tax: Tax Avoidance

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were dealing with corporate tax avoidance in each year from 1997 to 2007. [209206]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is unable to isolate the number of staff working on corporate tax avoidance specifically as each caseworker covers a range of different avoidance schemes and volumetrics do not discriminate down to this level. The figures quoted in this response refer to HM Revenue and Customs which was formed on 18 April 2005. Prior to that date the former departments approached anti-avoidance activity in very different ways and no comparative figures are available.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207216]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 May 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209437]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual revenue to the Exchequer which would arise from extending the present rate of road fuel duty applicable to unleaded petrol that is not ultra-low sulphur or sulphur-free to aviation fuel *(a)* without and *(b)* with value added tax added to the duty. [209941]

Angela Eagle: Approximately 16 billion litres of aviation turbine fuel (Avtur), which is used in jet and turboprop aircraft, was consumed in the UK in 2006. Imposing duty at the current rate for unleaded petrol of 53.65 pence per litre would imply revenue of approximately £8.5 billion, although actual revenue would be likely to be lower than this because of behavioural responses from airlines and passengers. However, imposing duty on the commercial use of Avtur for international flights would be contrary to our international obligations, although aviation gasoline, which is used in piston-engined aircraft, is already subject to fuel duty.

HM Revenue and Customs does not hold sufficient information with which to make an estimate of any additional VAT revenue that could arise. However, under the normal rules of the tax, any VAT charged can be reclaimed by a VAT registered airline or other business to the extent that it relates to their taxable business activities.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of registered keepers of vehicles in Peterborough constituency who will pay more graduated vehicle excise duty between 2008-09 and 2011-12 for vehicles in *(a)* Band A, *(b)* Band B, *(c)* Band C, *(d)* Band D, *(e)* Band E, *(f)* Band F and *(g)* Band G, and if he will make a statement. [207073]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 May 2008]*: The Government do not currently have information on the number of cars within each VED band that are registered within particular constituencies.

As a result of the vehicle excise duty reforms announced at Budget 2008, in 2009-10, it is estimated that a third of drivers will be better off in real terms, and in total, approximately 55 per cent. of drivers will be no worse off.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006, and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [208146]

Angela Eagle: Based on records held in HM Treasury's accounting system since May 2006 there were 18 official occasions on which VIP facilities were used at Heathrow airport at a total cost of £4,853. There is no record of similar bookings and expenditure incurred at either Gatwick, Luton or Stansted airports.

A monthly breakdown of usage is given as follows.

Month	*Number of bookings*	*Cost (£)*
May 2006	2	539
September 2006	4	1,079
November 2006	2	539
January 2007	2	539
February 2007	2	539
April 2007	2	539
June 2007	2	539
October 2007	2	539

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax relief on pension contributions was claimed at *(a)* the basic rate and *(b)* a higher rate in the last financial year for which figures are available. [209763]

Kitty Ussher: Latest estimates of the tax relief on pension contributions are available in Table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

A break down of tax relief on individual and employee contributions broken down by the individual's marginal tax rate is provided in the following table. This distribution relates to financial year 2005-06, the latest for which data are available.

Marginal income tax rate	*Percentage of tax relief*
Higher rate	55
Those that would be higher rate without the tax relief	5
Others	40

Note:

This distribution is based on the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 per cent.

It is not possible to provide such a breakdown for employer contributions.

Taxation: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the proposed aviation duty is predicated on aircraft weight; and what consideration was given to its predication on aircraft emissions. [209978]

Angela Eagle: Details of the Government's thinking on this issue were clearly set out in chapter 2 of the consultation document 'Aviation duty: a consultation', published on 31 March 2008.

The maximum take-off weight of an aircraft was put forward as the lead option as it has been shown to be a reasonable proxy of aircraft emissions as seen in graph 2.1 of the consultation document.

The formal consultation period closed on 24 April and HM Treasury is currently analysing the over 160 responses received, before the Chancellor announces the final design details in the autumn.

VAT: Safety Belts

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to extend to child restraint bases used with standard ISOFIX points the same reduced rate of VAT applicable to the children's car seats designed to operate in tandem with them. [209979]

Jane Kennedy: All taxes are kept under review and changes are announced as part of the normal Budget process.

Windfall Tax: Utilities

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of introducing a windfall profits tax on energy suppliers. [209514]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury considers any representations on tax issues including tax proposals. Proposals about tax are dealt with by the Chancellor in the usual Budget/pre-Budget report cycle.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 206123, tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 13 May 2008, on vehicle excise duty; what the reason is for the time taken to respond; and if he will make a statement. [208982]

Angela Eagle: I answered the hon. Member's question on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 926-27W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks: Audit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce legislation to prohibit auditors of banks from selling consultancy services to their audit clients. [208073]

Mr. Thomas: The provision of consultancy services to audit clients is already regulated in two ways:

by the Ethical Standards of the Auditing Practices Board, which auditors are required to follow. These standards were introduced following the review of accounting and audit regulation after Enron and other corporate scandals earlier in the decade. The standards require auditors to adopt safeguards to mitigate any threats to their objectivity which might result from their providing consultancy services, or to refrain from providing the services. In April 2008 the Auditing Practices Board concluded a review of the Ethical Standards which showed broad support for continuing with this overall approach.

by the requirement on companies to disclose in their annual accounts any sums paid to auditors for non-audit services.

I therefore, have no plans to introduce further changes to the above rules.

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many statutory instruments have been *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked by Ministers in his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [204772]

Mr. Thomas: Figures[1] for the period 1998 to 30 April 2008 show that a total of 1,328 statutory instruments were made by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and its predecessor.

Figures for 1997 are unavailable and the information for 1998 may comprise only partial details of statutory instruments made during that year. In addition the Department made 23 Orders in Counsel[2] during the period 2003 - 30 April 2008.

Figures for Orders in Council made prior to 2003 and statutory instruments revoked since 1997 are not held centrally and could only be obtains at disproportionate cost.

[1] Office of Public Sector Information

[2] Departmental records

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207470]

Mr. Thomas: The former Department of Trade and Industry (up to June 2007) and the Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform awarded end-year performance awards to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available, in the 2007-08 financial year, the total amount of annual performance awards is in the following table.

	Financial year[1] 2007-08
Number of performance awards paid to senior civil servants	143
Number of performance awards paid to all staff[2]	1,065
Annual Performance Awards paid to senior civil servants (£)	1,126,000
Annual performance awards paid to all staff[2] (£)	2,265,502

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] Includes staff who were transferred from DTI to DIUS as part of the June 2007 Machinery of Government changes as these staff received a DTI/BERR pay award in 2007. Does not include those staff transferred into BERR from Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government as these staff received Cabinet Office and DCLG pay awards respectively in 2007.

Notes:

1. The annual performance awards are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's pay-bill costs each year. For permanent members of the senior civil service, performance awards are a non-consolidated, non-pensionable element of the overall remuneration package and range in size from 0 per cent. to 15 per cent. of base pay. For the SCS the senior salaries review body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.
2. Performance awards made up 1.5 per cent. of the Department's pay bill.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208509]

Mr. Thomas: The question requires information from a number of different sources which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Directors: Disqualification

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many disqualification undertakings have been received by his Department from company directors since 1 April 2003. [206709]

Mr. McFadden: The number of disqualification undertakings since 1 April 2003 is:

	Number
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	1,154
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	950
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	906
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	954
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	897
1 April 2008 to 19 May 2009 -	127

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letters of 5 March 2008, 9 April 2008 and 9 May 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare regarding a constituent, Mr Michael Rogers; and what the reasons for the time taken to reply are. [208417]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness, responded on 28 May, the delay in responding was due to an administrative error.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment criteria has been used by the Post Office to produce branch closure proposals in Copeland. [198152]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd., in developing its post office closure proposals, is required to meet the access criteria requirements, to take account of local geography and to consider a range of factors, including the local demographics, availability of public transport, alternative access to key post office services and the impact of closures on local economies. Under the Cumbria area plan proposals, on which public consultation started on 18 March and closed on 27 May, there would be no change to the office currently used by 89.6 per cent. of customers and in total 98.5 per cent. would see no change or be within one mile by road of an alternative branch. Decisions are scheduled to be announced on 18 June.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices in Halifax were closed between 1992 and 1997. [207789]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many operational post boxes there were for use by the general public in each year since 1997. [208082]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Tattooing: Complaints

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints his Department has received from consumers dissatisfied with the service they received from an organisation offering tattoos and/or tattoo removals in the last three years. [207840]

Mr. Thomas: Consumer Direct, a Government backed telephone and on-line advice service has recorded 517 complaints from consumers relating to businesses offering tattoos and body piercing between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

BERR do not maintain a separate database of consumer complaints about traders.

Trade: Royal Visits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which countries have been visited by HRH Prince Andrew in his role as UK Special Representative for Trade and Investment since he took up his position; what the dates were of each visit; what mode of transport he used to travel to and from each country; and how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* other people accompanied him on each. [205890]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 May 2008]:* HRH the Duke of York took up his role as the UK Special Representative for International Trade and Investment on 1 October 2001. Details of all countries visited by the Duke of York in this role can be found either at:

www.thedukeofyork.org

(for overseas visits in 2006 to present day) or for visits dating back to 2001 from the Court Circular on the British Monarchy's main site at:

www.royal.gov.uk

The mode of transport used for travel to and from each visit is a decision for the Royal Household based on advice from the Royal Travel Office.

It is a decision for the Royal Household who accompanies the Duke of York.

It is usual for locally based officials to accompany the Duke of York on visits in their markets.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of remote selling or hiring of an air weapon over the internet in each month since the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into effect; and of those convicted how many were given (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a fine and (iii) an alternative punishment; [206516]

(2) how many people under 18 years old were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted under the Firearms Act 1968 of offences involving the purchasing or hiring of an air weapon in each of the last five years; and of those convicted how many were given (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a fine and (iii) an alternative punishment; [206165]

(3) how many people were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of possession of (i) an air gun or (ii) an imitation firearm, in a public place without legal authority or reasonable excuse in each year since the coming into effect of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003; and of those convicted, how many were given (A) a custodial sentence, (B) a fine and (C) an alternative punishment. [206166]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answers 16 and 19 May 2008]:* Sale or hiring of an air weapon is covered by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 which came into force during 2007.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice for the offence of purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition show that no persons under 18 were proceeded against, or found guilty for the years 2002 to 2006 in England and Wales.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, hence proceeded against, and found guilty data are normally provided in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice for the number of persons proceeded against, found guilty, sentenced to; (i) a custodial sentence, (ii) a fine or (iii) an alternative punishment for the offence of possession of an air gun, or imitation firearm, for the years 2003 to 2006 in England and Wales can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information on numbers proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against, found guilty, with sentence breakdowns for the offence carrying a loaded or unloaded imitation firearm or air weapon in public place (Group III), England and Wales, 2003-06[1, 2, 3]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Proceeded against	168	440	749	619
Found guilty	129	360	659	514
Result				
Committed for sentence	—	2	14	8
Absolute discharge	3	6	10	7
Conditional discharge	25	62	109	94
Fine	51	96	117	85
Community sentence	41	159	340	239
Fully suspended sentence	—	—	11	27
Immediate custody	5	29	48	46
Otherwise dealt with	4	6	10	8
Total	129	360	659	514

— = Nil.

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: Firearms Act 1968, section 19 as amended by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, section 37(1)(b) and (d) and (2)

Source:

CJEA—OCJR (Office for Criminal Justice Reform), Ministry of Justice Reform.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there were for selling alcohol to people under the age of 18 years from *(a)* on premises and *(b)* off premises in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [197364]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in England and Wales by police force area can be viewed in the following table. It is not possible to differentiate between sales from on premises or off premises, neither is it possible to break down the Court Proceedings Database by local authority area.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected alcohol offences, broken down by police force area, England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	—	2		10	5
Bedfordshire	1	1	5	9	22
Cambridgeshire	—	—	1	7	21
Cheshire	3	5	15	5	6
Cleveland	1	1	8	12	7
Cumbria	—	—	1	6	1
Derbyshire	—	24	13	6	7
Devon and Cornwall	—		11	3	4
Dorset	—	8	3	7	
Durham		—	2		
Essex	2	7	—	8	10
Gloucestershire	—	—	1	5	10
Greater Manchester	28	87	135	92	112
Hampshire	3	—	7	8	—
Hertfordshire	—		6	1	35
Humberside	—	—	5	1	3
Kent	3	10	11	10	2
Lancashire	7	13	15	65	22
Leicestershire	9	11	4	15	31
Lincolnshire	—	11	3	1	1
Merseyside	6	27	9	11	16
Metropolitan Police	9	77	134	206	199
Norfolk	—	1	3	1	
North Yorkshire	—	1	17	1	19
Northamptonshire	1	—		6	10
Northumbria	4	31	35	55	23
Nottinghamshire	—	2	—	9	29
South Yorkshire	—			8	9

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected alcohol offences, broken down by police force area, England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Staffordshire	3	6	2	12	21
Suffolk	—	—	—	3	2
Surrey	2	2	8	11	17
Sussex	—	7	3	1	20
Thames Valley	—	4	9	5	14
Warwickshire	—	23	25	7	2
West Mercia	—	6	3	15	7
West Midlands	4	19	40	63	60
West Yorkshire	8	1	20	11	10
Wiltshire	1	3	3	9	6
Dyfed-Powys	1	5	11	4	15
Gwent	5	2	12	12	14
North Wales	1	5	4	10	4
South Wales	3	17	24	41	58
Total	105	419	608	772	854

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to,
knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell,
intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 schedule (sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 sec 169(1).
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1)
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Licensing Act 1964 sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 sec 17.
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 sec 147(1) and (5).

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

Sources:
Court proceedings data held by RDS
Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ministry of Justice

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there were for being drunk and disorderly of defendants aged 10 to 17 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since 1997. [200245]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for drunk and disorderly related offences by police force area in England and in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years who were proceeded against at magistrates' courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, and by police force area in England[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	16	13	13	13	27	22	25	18	25	25
Bedfordshire	2	14	6	12	12	6	15	16	11	7
Cambridgeshire	8	5	13	7	10	4	16	19	12	13
Cheshire	56	56	46	50	57	59	59	63	11	14
City of London	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	84	75	91	62	74	78	75	66	25	18
Cumbria	79	62	61	47	53	51	63	53	42	48
Derbyshire	24	19	8	19	29	34	34	45	25	18
Devon and Cornwall	40	40	34	65	89	64	78	97	69	82
Dorset	17	21	13	22	25	27	30	12	5	10
Durham	32	54	67	57	50	61	59	55	76	52
Essex	42	43	42	69	53	29	27	27	11	11
Gloucestershire	17	7	11	12	9	9	14	9	8	5
Greater Manchester	55	65	62	106	93	77	67	47	25	21
Hampshire	51	87	101	85	84	81	83	85	62	33
Hertfordshire	21	14	25	27	31	36	28	20	29	10
Humberside	14	8	23	24	23	26	16	27	17	19
Kent	46	42	63	80	87	85	125	132	71	69
Lancashire	79	110	164	186	210	201	209	124	80	92
Leicestershire	3	1	7	1	5	2	1	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	35	58	47	31	40	44	43	48	12	2
Merseyside	287	196	168	198	167	166	170	129	72	77
Metropolitan Police	52	51	57	75	113	90	103	70	27	34

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 years who were proceeded against at magistrates' courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, and by police force area in England[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Norfolk	2	5	4	4	8	8	12	8	3	3
North Yorkshire	12	19	30	29	34	36	39	21	32	27
Northamptonshire	1	0	1	3	1	3	5	6	2	4
Northumbria	255	316	334	373	367	384	409	471	515	441
Nottinghamshire	32	36	37	22	33	26	25	14	16	18
South Yorkshire	85	80	103	127	94	116	125	127	54	64
Staffordshire[5]	20	17	23	0	17	25	42	23	24	12
Suffolk	7	6	13	19	27	36	39	36	20	8
Surrey	20	22	13	25	34	34	31	28	32	13
Sussex	32	30	11	41	43	54	62	46	41	37
Thames Valley	39	59	48	47	84	64	50	63	42	36
Warwickshire	26	23	28	20	26	11	14	9	3	7
West Mercia	37	34	34	35	59	45	31	63	64	51
West Midlands	45	27	13	30	22	39	43	35	20	42
West Yorkshire	134	158	205	187	165	127	169	66	62	128
Wiltshire	9	21	12	19	18	26	25	30	16	14
England and Wales	2,028	2,111	2,247	2,410	2,536	2,451	2,614	2,372	1,816	1,685

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Being found drunk in a highway or other public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises. Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.

Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour. Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Figures include other: public bodies, companies, organisations.

5. Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice. Our Ref: IOS 250-08 (Table).

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* cautions there were in relation to selling alcohol to children and young people under the age of 18 years in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997. [201553]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and the number issued with a caution for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, by police force area, 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18 years, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	0	22	3	0	1	0	2	0	14	5
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	7	10	24
Cambridgeshire	2	7	0	4	2	0	0	4	9	27
Cheshire	5	14	10	6	0	4	16	20	8	6
Cleveland	0	2	0	0	1	1	4	10	14	11
Cumbria	4	11	4	0	2	2	1	1	8	1
Derbyshire	11	7	6	8	3	0	37	22	13	8
Devon and Cornwall	0	9	1	2	0	1	0	12	8	6
Dorset	2	6	1	0	3	0	9	10	35	7
Durham	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
Essex	6	7	2	0	2	3	7	2	8	16
Gloucestershire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	10
Greater Manchester	21	27	21	22	20	39	129	180	117	160
Hampshire	1	7	6	3	2	4	0	9	11	2
Hertfordshire	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	8	3	40
Humberside	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	6
Kent	0	1	0	0	5	3	12	15	14	2
Lancashire	17	3	6	1	13	14	23	22	89	32
Leicestershire	1	3	1	1	1	10	15	10	27	45
Lincolnshire	0	2	0	0	0	0	17	4	11	10
Merseyside	8	3	0	1	0	14	42	19	16	34
Metropolitan Police	13	13	17	2	19	12	113	167	253	236
Norfolk	1	1	4	0	0	0	1	9	3	0
North Yorkshire	0	3	3	0	0	0	7	22	3	68
Northamptonshire	5	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	11	13
Northumbria	34	92	41	17	17	8	38	51	79	41

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18 years, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Nottinghamshire	3	1	7	0	0	0	9	0	11	37
South Yorkshire	2	4	5	14	22	0	0	5	16	10
Staffordshire	11	2	1	0	0	3	8	5	20	23
Suffolk	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Surrey	3	3	1	0	0	5	4	10	13	18
Sussex	3	3	1	2	7	0	8	4	4	33
Thames Valley	2	4	2	1	3	0	6	28	15	36
Warwickshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	27	26	7	2
West Mercia	3	3	5	3	3	0	7	5	19	10
West Midlands	11	14	28	18	8	10	20	45	76	74
West Yorkshire	14	12	9	8	9	14	2	21	15	17
Wiltshire	0	2	0	2	2	1	6	10	23	10
Dyfed-Powys	3	3	6	8	3	2	5	24	6	18
Gwent	13	5	5	4	5	9	2	20	16	21
North Wales	1	1	2	2	1	1	7	5	10	4
South Wales	6	4	6	0	0	7	29	34	55	72
England and Wales	215	311	205	132	158	170	616	861	1,084	1,199

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 2003 S.146
Sale of alcohol to person under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S.147
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S.147A
Persistently sell alcohol to children
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para. 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1).
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec. 17.
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[5] Figures include Other: Public bodies, companies, organisations.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of defendants issued with a caution for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18 years, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	0	6	0	0	0	4	2	7	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	3	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	7	3
Cleveland	5	0	9	7	1	1	0	2	3	5
Cumbria	4	1	0	0	3	1	0	5	8	3
Derbyshire	1	4	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Dorset	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	4
Durham	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	12	4	5	0	1	12	13	5	2	2
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	25	7	5	6	8	0	3	0	0	1
Hampshire	10	4	2	2	3	0	0	1	0	1
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Humberside	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kent	[illegible]	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	11	5	2	1	4	21	19	24	15	7
Leicestershire	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	7	2	0
Lincolnshire	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	20	2	4	1	5	11	4	11	4	13
Metropolitan Police	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	[illegible]	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northamptonshire	1	0	4	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	10	3	5	0	1	3	0	1	1	3
Nottinghamshire	3	1	11	0	[illegible]	0	0	0	0	0

Number of defendants issued with a caution for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18 years, in England and Wales, by police force area, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[3]	*2006*
South Yorkshire	19	8	5	7	1	0	38	35	25	8
Staffordshire	2	4	0	5	2	3	3	7	11	2
Suffolk	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Sussex	3	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Thames Valley	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Warwickshire	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	5	0	1	0	11	0	0	1	1	1
West Midlands	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wiltshire	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	2	3	4	1	[illegible]	1	2	3	0
Gwent	3	2	2	0	1	[illegible]	0	0	4	0
North Wales	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
England and Wales	174	81	72	55	51	61	89	116	102	61

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 2003 S.146
Sale of alcohol to person under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S.147
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S.147A
Persistently sell alcohol to children
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para. 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1).
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec. 17.
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.

[4] Figures include Other: Public bodies, companies, organisations.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were imposed in the East Devon constituency in each of the last five years. [208754]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not collected centrally at parliamentary constituency area level.

The number of ASBOs issued in the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice System (CJS) area from January 2002 to December 2006 (latest available) is shown in the following table. CJS areas are coterminous with police force areas.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 2002-06

Devon and Cornwall	*Number*
2002	3
2003	13
2004	81
2005	73
2006	46
Total	216

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Cannabis: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police seizures of cannabis there were in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [209391]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of police seizures of cannabis in Suffolk for 2001-05[1]

	Number of cannabis seizures[2]
2001[3]	420
2002[3]	770
2003	660
2004[4]	1,080
2005[4]	1,181

[1] Data for 2006-07 are scheduled to be published in October 2008. Future publications will be on a financial year basis.

[2] 2005 figures are unrounded; previous years rounded.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures prior to this date are not directly comparable with those for later years.

[4] Increases in cannabis seizures in 2004 and 2005 are thought to be associated with the introduction of cannabis warnings on 1 April 2004.

Crime: Business

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the British Retail Consortium of running the Action Against Business Crime partnership in each of the last five years was; and what the projected cost to both is in each of the next five years; [205505]

(2) what the cost to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the British Retail Consortium of setting up the National Staff Dismissal Register is; and what the projected cost to both is in each of the first five years of its operation; [205508]

(3) whether the National Staff Dismissal Register will record details of former employees of companies which subscribe to the Register who have never been charged with or convicted of any offence; and if she will make a statement; [205509]

(4) how much her Department contributed to the cost of the establishment of the National Staff Dismissal Register; and what contribution is proposed in each of the first five years of the register's operation; [205506]

(5) what estimate she has made of how many records will be added to the National Staff Dismissal Register in each of the first 12 months of its operation; and if she will make a statement. [205507]

Jacqui Smith: Action Against Business Crime (AABC) group was set up in 2004 in a joint venture between the Home Office and the British Retail Consortium in order to build and support business crime reduction partnerships in towns and cities across England and Wales. The AABC has received £1,139,000 of grants from the Home Office between the financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07 to set up and maintain 100 new business crime reduction partnerships.

This total is broken down as follows:

	£
2003-04	102,000
2004-05	213,000
2005-06	644,000
2006-07	180,000

All Home Office funding for AABC ceased at the end of March 2007.

The Home Office has not been involved in the development and setting up of the National Staff Dismissal register and will not be involved in any way in its operation.

Crime: Statistics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under 16 years-old will be interviewed when the British Crime Survey is extended to this age group. [207014]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office sought independent expert advice on the feasibility of extending the BCS to include children under 16 years old and this was published on 15 May 2008 (see following link to report).

The advice we received was to obtain a sample of children aged 10-15 within households already selected for the core BCS. Based on this, we expect to interview around 4,000 under 16 year-olds every year.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr08c.pdf

Domestic Violence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what her most recent estimate is of the drop-out rate of domestic violence perpetrators from *(a)* national and *(b)* local domestic violence projects; [208432]

(2) how much funding has been allocated to projects aimed at supporting *(a)* perpetrators and *(b)* victims of domestic violence using (i) psychotherapy and psychoanalysis and (ii) cognitive behavioural therapy in 2008-09; [208435]

(3) what assessment she has made of the merits of *(a)* psychotherapy and psychoanalysis and *(b)* cognitive behavioural therapy for (i) perpetrators and (ii) victims of domestic violence; [208436]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of treatments available for perpetrators of domestic violence; and if she will make a statement. [208437]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There is no evidence available regarding the effectiveness of accredited domestic violence programmes, which are delivered within England and Wales. However we will be reporting the outcome of an implementation study in September 2008 and commissioning an evaluation study based upon the results of this study.

The National Offender Management Service does not provide psychotherapy; psychoanalysis or cognitive behavioural therapy to the perpetrators or victims of domestic violence. It does deliver accredited programmes to men sentenced by the courts. Additionally the victims of domestic violence are supported by independent domestic violence advisers attached to the specialist domestic violence courts and women safety workers assigned to all probation areas/trusts. Both have a wide network of contacts to assist the victims of domestic violence, either directly or as part of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

In terms of funding £3 million per annum is provided to fond the independent domestic violence advisers (IDVA) who support victims through the court process and can make contacts/referrals for victims. Additionally probation areas fund women safety workers (WSW) from their budgets and NOMS provides a further grant to areas of £750,000. Funding is not made by this department to support psychotherapy, psychoanalysis and cognitive behavioural therapy.

National drop out rates for the accredited domestic programmes delivered by the Probation Service in the year 2007-08 was 37 per cent. This is an improvement from previous years. We do not hold information for local projects.

Firearms: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gun crimes there were in Cheshire in each of the last five years. [204407]

Jacqui Smith: Data on the number of crimes recorded by Cheshire police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, by being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat from 2002-03 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Crimes recorded by Cheshire police in which firearms (excluding air weapons), were reported to have been used[1], 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Recorded crimes
2002-03[2]	31
2003-04	44
2004-05[3]	61
2005-06	71
2006-07	41

[1] By weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of internal human trafficking have been identified in the last three years. [207265]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Data on trafficking victims are not yet recorded centrally. However, a database of trafficked victims is currently being developed by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) to inform its work on the detection and prevention of human trafficking.

Intelligence Services: Vetting

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements there are to re-vet spouses and partners of officials in the security and intelligence services after they are initially vetted; and if she will make a statement. [208285]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

In accordance with Government policy staff with access to sensitive Government information are required to be vetted at an appropriate level. In the case of the security and intelligence agencies staff are subject to Developed Vetting. This involves a range of background checks on the subject and their close associates, including spouses and partners. Vetted individuals have an obligation to draw to the attention of their management or security section any relevant change of circumstances as soon as it occurs. Each clearance is subject to regular formal review.

Organised Crime: EC Enlargement

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of organised crime gangs from *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Romania and *(c)* Bulgaria operating in England and Wales and the volume of related criminal activity; and if she will make a statement. [200510]

Jacqui Smith: No estimate has been made by the Home Office of the numbers of foreign nationals who are members of organised crime groups in the UK.

Police: Driving Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* were prosecuted in connection with alleged driving offences that have involved the death of civilians, *(b)* were convicted of such offences and *(c)* faced disciplinary actions in connection with such incidents in each year since 1997. [210034]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not collected centrally. The best available information is in the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) report 'Police Road Traffic Incidents: A Study of Cases Involving Serious and Fatal Injuries', which covers the period from April 2004 to September 2006. This shows that in that period five officers were prosecuted in connection with alleged offences involving a death and one in connection with an offence that involved the death of an unborn child. Four were convicted. The report sets out the action recommended in respect of other officers involved in collisions involving a fatality or serious injury, including the issuing of advice, formal disciplinary proceedings or other measures. The report is available on the IPCC website at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/index/resources/research/reports_rti.htm.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were convicted of *(a)* offences of causing death by dangerous driving and *(b)* related offences in each year since 1997. [210035]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not routinely collected centrally. Research by the Independent Police Complaints Commission looked at police related road traffic incidents that occurred between April 2004 and September 2006 and involved serious or fatal injuries. This found no police officer had been found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving in that period. Five officers were prosecuted in connection with road traffic collisions involving a fatality and one for a collision involving the death of an unborn child. Four were convicted.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions compensation was paid to relatives of those killed in road traffic accidents involving police officers, other than compensation paid through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, in each year since 1997. [210036]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. Any payments by the police would be a matter for individual chief officers of police and their police authorities.

Police: Secondment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving members of police forces in England and Wales were seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* length of secondment and *(b)* rank of officer. [207659]

Paul Goggins: I have been asked to reply.

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has provided the following information. 32 serving members of police forces in England and Wales have been seconded to the PSNI in the last 10 years. The following table shows the breakdown of these officers by length of secondment and rank.

	Length of secondment to PSNI			*Rank*					
Year secondment commenced	*Years*	*Months*	*Days*	*Chief Superintendent*	*Superintendent*	*Chief Inspector*	*Inspector*	*Sergeant*	*Constable*
1998	0	2	23	—	—	—	1	—	—
1999	0	2	27	—	1	—	—	—	—
	0	3	0	—	1	—	—	—	—
2000	0	3	0	—	—	—	1	—	—
2003	1	11	26	—	1	—	—	—	—
	1	2	27	—	1	—	—	—	—
2004	1	11	29	—	—	—	—	—	1
2005	1	0	0	—	—	2	—	—	—
	1	2	19	—	—	1	—	—	—
	1	3	26	—	1	—	—	—	—
2006	0	11	13	—	—	—	—	2	2
	0	1	25	1	—	—	—	—	—
	0	5	20	—	—	—	—	—	1
	1	0	0	—	—	—	1	—	4
	1	1	0	—	—	—	—	3	1
	1	6	7	—	—	1	—	—	—
2007	1	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	1
2008	0	8	0	—	—	—	—	—	1
	1	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total				1	5	4	3	5	14

Unfair Practices: Sales Methods

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal share sales boiler room operations were shut down in each of the last three years. [206944]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 May 2008]:* From the data collected centrally we are not able to identify how many illegal share sales boiler room operations have been shut down.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many types of apprenticeship are available; and what estimate he has made of the number of people on each scheme. [209310]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* Over 130,000 employers are offering apprenticeship places in over 180 different types of apprenticeships across 80 industry sectors. The following table shows the number of people starting apprenticeships by framework type in England in 2006/07.

Apprenticeships starts by framework 2006/07

		Number
101	Agricultural Crops and Livestock	420
102	Business Administration	15,520
103	Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Petro-Chemical Manufacturing and Refining Industries	190
104	Children's Care Learning and Development	13,210
105	Electrotechnical	6,510
106	Engineering	11,570
107	Engineering Construction	310
111	Polymer Processing and Signmaking	50
112	Retail	8,140
113	Metals Industry	50
115	Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	1,330

Apprenticeships starts by framework 2006/07

		Number
116	Construction	20,700
117	Plumbing	5,310
201	Accountancy	3,710
202	Aviation	500
204	Bakery	40
206	Transport Engineering and Maintenance	180
209	Cleaning and Support Service Industry	20
211	Electricity Industry	150
212	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	1,200
213	Property Services	240
214	Emergency Fire Service Operations	30
215	Furniture Industry	410
216	Glass Industry	430
217	Hairdressing	16,980
219	Amenity Horticulture	980
220	Hospitality and Catering	13,230
221	Housing	10
225	Meat and Poultry Processing	240
227	Printing	210
228	Carry and Deliver Goods	120
229	Sea Fishing	30
230	Security Industry	1,080
231	Active Leisure and Learning	3,790
232	Communications Technologies (Telecoms)	1,560
233	Trees and Timber	40
234	Marine industry	160
235	Automotive Industry	430
236	Health and Social Care	7,380
243	Environmental Conservation	30
244	Floristry	130
247	Equine Industry	1,140
248	Insurance	40
254	Land-based Service Engineering	300
260	Management	1,970
262	Animal Care	390
263	Customer Service	15,250
264	Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations	100
265	Gas Industry	600
267	Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	980
276	Textiles	150
278	Rail Transport Engineering	160
279	Beauty Therapy	810
282	Building Services Engineering Technicians	50
283	Industrial Applications	1,220
284	Fencing	10
287	Pharmacy Technicians	60
290	Community Justice	10
292	IT Services and Development	1,560
293	Contact Centres	750
294	Electrical and Electronic Servicing	10
295	Driving Goods Vehicles	1,950
296	Payroll	10
297	Ports Industry	10
299	Farriery	100
300	Rail Transport Operations	
301	Learning and Development (Direct Training and Support)	20
303	Production Horticulture	20
304	Sales and Telesales	160
305	Barbering	90
306	Optical Advisor	160
309	Saddlery	10
311	Teaching Assistants	80
312	Sporting Excellence	1,630
313	Public Services	890
315	Dental Nursing	1,290
316	Game and Wildlife Management	60
317	Veterinary Nursing	680
319	Support Services in Healthcare	80
321	Design	30
322	IT User	2,640
323	Storage and Warehousing	800
324	Traffic Office	80
327	Vehicle Fitting	1,000
328	Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	8,840
329	Roadside Assistance and Recovery	440
330	Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	1,340
331	Vehicle Parts Operations	500
332	Vehicle Sales	110
333	Footwear and Leather	30
334	Mail Services	150
335	Engineering Technology	10
339	Football Sporting Excellence	20
340	Youth Work	20
344	Fitted Interiors	20
346	Retail Financial Services	220
347	Gas Network Operations	10
	Total	184,340

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest 10
Source:
WBL Individualised Learner Record

Dementia: Research

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Medical Research Council plans to spend in 2008-09 on dementia research in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and (d) Northern Ireland. [210127]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In 2006-07, the MRC spent approximately £6.4 million on research on dementias in the UK. The MRC is currently undertaking a strategic review on neurodegeneration. Recommendations from the review may help inform future levels of funding for dementias. The MRC does not have set budgets for specific illnesses and research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The MRC welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Further Education Colleges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many further education colleges have applied for degree awarding powers since 1 May 2008. [207550]

Bill Rammell: None. We are expecting a few of the larger 'mixed economy group' of further education colleges to apply for foundation degree awarding powers within the next few months. More from this group of colleges are expected to apply for foundation degree awarding powers during 2009.

Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges have applied for degree-awarding powers since 1 May 2008. [209787]

Bill Rammell: No colleges have so far applied for degree awarding powers since 1 May 2008, although we expect a number of applications to be made in due course. Our policy has always been to consider any applications on their merits and against the high standards we set in order to maintain the quality and reputation of higher education in this country.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 18 and 19 year olds from each local authority area obtained a place at university in each year from 1995 to 2007. [209452]

Bill Rammell: HEFCEs 'Young participation in Higher Education' publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by local authority area, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website

www.hefce.ac.uk/polar

The proportion of young people from each local authority who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 is shown in the table. Figures are shown for the year in which the cohort turned 18.

Proportion of young people who entered higher education at age 18 or 19, by local authority

	Year cohort aged 18			
Local authority	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Gateshead	24	21	22	22
Newcastle upon Tyne	24	25	25	26
North Tyneside	27	26	26	27
South Tyneside	21	19	20	21
Sunderland	20	18	19	19
Hartlepool	20	20	20	20
Middlesbrough	20	21	22	22
Redcar and Cleveland	23	21	23	21
Stockton-on-Tees	27	26	28	28
Darlington	22	24	27	25
Durham	24	23	24	22
Northumberland	33	32	30	31
Knowsley	15	17	18	18
Liverpool	20	21	22	21
St. Helens	29	28	29	27
Sefton	34	34	34	34
Wirral	33	32	30	32
Halton	20	18	19	19
Bolton	30	29	29	30
Bury	30	32	31	33
Manchester	17	18	19	19
Oldham	23	22	24	24
Rochdale	25	24	25	25
Salford	17	17	17	18
Stockport	33	35	34	35
Tameside	20	19	20	21
Trafford	37	37	37	38
Wigan	25	25	23	25
Cheshire	38	38	37	39
Warrington	29	29	30	29
Lancashire	31	30	30	31
Blackburn with Darwen	22	23	25	25
Blackpool	19	19	20	22
Cumbria	27	27	28	28
Barnsley	17	17	19	20
Doncaster	19	20	20	20
Rotherham	22	19	21	21
Sheffield	24	23	25	25
Bradford	24	24	23	24
Calderdale	26	26	26	27
Kirklees	29	28	28	28
Leeds	25	26	27	27
Wakefield	22	21	20	21
Kingston upon Hull	12	12	11	11
East Riding of Yorkshire	34	31	31	32
North East Lincolnshire	20	19	20	16
North Lincolnshire	28	24	26	27
North Yorkshire	38	35	36	37
York	33	30	32	33
Derbyshire	27	27	26	27
Derby	25	25	24	25
Leicestershire	34	32	33	33
Leicester	26	28	30	30
Rutland	47	46	39	47
Lincolnshire	29	28	27	28
Nottinghamshire	27	26	27	27
Nottingham	15	16	15	16
Northamptonshire	27	28	28	28
Birmingham	24	24	25	25
Solihull	36	35	36	35
Coventry	27	29	26	28
Warwickshire	35	32	33	33
Dudley	24	25	24	24
Sandwell	20	18	19	21
Walsall	22	22	23	23
Wolverhampton	28	25	27	28
Staffordshire	28	30	31	31
Stoke-on-Trent	16	16	17	17
Herefordshire	31	32	33	35
Worcestershire	33	32	32	32
Shropshire	37	35	35	36
Telford and Wrekin	22	22	24	24
Bedfordshire	33	33	31	33
Luton	25	25	23	26
Cambridgeshire	33	33	31	33
Peterborough	23	25	23	23
Essex	27	26	27	28
Southend on Sea	26	23	24	27
Thurrock	15	15	13	14
Hertfordshire	37	35	37	38
Norfolk	25	24	25	25
Suffolk	28	29	28	29

Proportion of young people who entered higher education at age 18 or 19, by local authority

	Year cohort aged 18			
Local authority	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
City of London	52	56	53	60
Greenwich	21	21	21	24
Hackney	19	23	23	22
Lewisham	24	23	25	27
Tower Hamlets	17	21	21	24
Barking and Dagenham	13	14	14	15
Bexley	23	24	23	26
Havering	22	20	21	23
Newham	26	27	29	31
Redbridge	43	41	43	48
Camden	38	41	41	44
Islington	24	29	31	30
Kensington and Chelsea	48	58	55	60
Lambeth	25	28	28	29
Southwark	22	24	28	27
Wandsworth	35	38	39	39
Westminster	43	51	50	48
Hammersmith and Fulham	33	36	38	38
Brent	44	45	48	48
Ealing	41	43	45	46
Harrow	51	51	55	54
Hillingdon	31	32	32	34
Hounslow	36	38	38	41
Barnet	51	52	49	52
Enfield	35	35	36	37
Haringey	31	34	34	33
Waltham Forest	29	28	30	32
Bromley	37	37	38	39
Croydon	33	33	34	36
Kingston upon Thames	43	45	45	47
Merton	36	40	39	41
Richmond upon Thames	55	52	51	56
Sutton	34	34	33	38
Buckinghamshire	42	41	43	43
Milton Keynes	23	23	24	26
Oxfordshire	36	32	36	35
East Sussex	31	29	29	31
Brighton and Hove	26	27	26	27
West Sussex	34	31	31	32
Hampshire	34	32	32	32
Portsmouth	18	20	21	20
Southampton	21	21	21	22
Isle of Wight	28	30	29	26
Bracknell Forest	27	27	28	29
Windsor and Maidenhead	43	45	43	43
West Berkshire	38	33	37	38
Reading	25	26	26	28
Slough	28	30	32	33
Wokingham	46	44	47	46
Kent	30	29	30	31
Medway	21	21	21	23
Surrey	43	43	42	42
Isles of Scilly	25	30	33	24
Devon	31	29	29	30
Plymouth	22	23	23	22
Torbay	28	25	25	26
Cornwall	31	29	29	30
Bath and North East Somerset	35	33	36	35
Bristol	22	23	22	22
North Somerset	36	32	30	32
South Gloucestershire	30	26	30	30
Dorset	31	30	30	32
Poole	27	30	28	29
Bournemouth	30	29	27	26
Wiltshire	36	34	34	34
Swindon	22	22	23	25
Gloucestershire	36	34	33	35
Somerset	32	31	30	31
England	29	29	29	30

Source:
"Young Participation in Higher Education", published by HEFCE
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of students who had previously studied for (*a*) higher national diplomas and (*b*) foundation degrees went on to study for honours degrees in each year since 1997-98. [209475]

Bill Rammell: The available information on Higher National Diploma (HND) qualifiers and Foundation Degree (FD) qualifiers who went on to study a first degree in the following academic year only is shown in the tables. The figures were derived from the destinations surveys, which collect information about the destinations of qualifiers six months after qualification. Figures for 2006/07 will be available next month.

The available information is limited to qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification: it does not cover those who chose to progress to a first degree at a later stage.

For a number of reasons, it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions about the trends in the numbers of FD qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year, compared to students who completed HNDs. FDs were only introduced in 2001/02 and until 2004/05 there were relatively low numbers of qualifiers, which makes the figures inherently more volatile. It is also important to note that FD qualifiers tend to be older than HND qualifiers. Older qualifiers are less likely to go on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification, because they are often already employed and tend to have other financial and domestic commitments. They may therefore be more likely to proceed to further study at a later date.

In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) reported in their January 2007/03 (web only) report, Foundation Degrees Key Statistics 200142 to 2006-07, that some students on FDs who proceed to further study are reported as having qualified with an honours degree without having been reported as obtaining a FD degree, which has the effect of reducing the number of FD qualifiers who are recorded as having gone on to study for a first degree.

Number of UK Domiciled HND qualifiers and the number of those who went on to Study for a First Degree in the following academic year UK Higher Education Institutions Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year in which qualification obtained	HND Qualifiers of known first destination	Of which are studying for a First Degree in the following academic year[1]	
		Number	Percentage
1997/98	11,670	6,690	57.3
1998/99	11,135	6,600	59.3
1999/2000	9,410	5,560	59.1
2000/01	9,500	5,610	59.1
2001/02	9,500	5,745	60.5
2002/03	9,660	5,545	57.4
2003/04	7,225	4,030	55.8
2004/05	6,050	3,365	55.6
2005/06	4,935	2,760	55.9

[1] Covers students who are participating in (a) work and further study and (b) further study only, based on their situation six months after obtaining their qualification. Not all students provide information of their destination, for instance, the response rate to the questionnaire from HMD qualifiers was 66 per cent for the 2004/05 academic year.

Note

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five

Source

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) First Destinations Supplement (FDS) 1997/98 to 2001/02 and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) 2002/03 to 2005/06

Number of UK Domiciled foundation degree qualifiers and the number of those who went on to study for a First Degree in the following academic year UK Higher Education Institutions Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year in which qualification obtained	Foundation Degree qualifiers of known first destination	Of which are studying for a First Degree in the following academic year[1]	
		Number	Percentage
1997/98	[2]	[2]	[2]
1998/99	[2]	[2]	[2]
1999/00	[2]	[2]	[2]
2000/01	[2]	[2]	[2]
2001/02	[2]	[2]	[2]
2002/03	770	450	58.3
2003/04	1,980	1,010	51.2
2004/05	4,070	2,140	52.6
2005/06	6,330	3,530	55.8

[1] Covers students who are participating in (a) work and further study and (b) further study only, based on their situation six months after obtaining their qualification. Not all students provide information of their destination, for instance, the response rate to the questionnaire from Foundation Degree qualifiers was 70 per cent for the 2004/05 academic year.

[2] Foundation degrees were introduced in 2001/02 and usually take two years to complete. As such, figures for first degree students with a prior foundation degree qualification are only available from 2002/03.

Note

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five

Source

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) First Destinations Supplement (FDS) 1997/98 to 2001/02 and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) 2002/03 to 2005/06

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of state school leavers entered Russell Group universities in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; [209488]

(2) how many UK-domiciled students at English Russell Group universities were from state schools in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [209491]

Bill Rammell: Information on the percentage of state school leavers entering Russell group universities in 1997 and 2007 is not held centrally.

The figures in table 1 show the proportion of young full-time first degree entrants to English Russell group HEIs, who had previously attended state schools or colleges, along with the benchmarks for each institution.

Information in the table is taken from table T1a of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education. Figures for the 1997/98 academic year were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and figures for the 2006/07 academic year were published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

For each institution, the performance indicator is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities. The benchmarks are not targets.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled young full-time first degree entrants to English Russell group institutions who had previously attended state schools or colleges, academic years 1997/98 and 2006/07

English Russell group institutions	1997/98		2006/07	
	Percentage	Benchmark	Percentage	Benchmark
The University of Birmingham	69.9	75.0	78.1	81.2
The University of Bristol	55.0	71.4	63.1	78.4
The University of Cambridge	51.7	62.8	57.6	77.4

Table 1 Proportion of UK-domiciled young full-time first degree entrants to English Russell group institutions who had previously attended state schools or colleges academic years 1997/98 and 2006/07

	1997/98		2006/07	
English Russell group institutions	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	53.5	71.2	62.0	78.9
King's College London	63.4	76.1	71.3	79.6
The University of Leeds	70.0	75.7	73.3	82.0
The University of Liverpool	80.7	77.3	84.8	82.1
London School of Economics and Political Science	56.8	70.1	65.9	77.4
The University of Manchester	70.3	75.6	77.2	80.6
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	66.2	76.2	70.0	81.1
The University of Nottingham	68.1	72.8	67.4	79.4
The University of Oxford	46.8	65.4	53.0	76.7
The University of Sheffield	80.4	74.1	85.3	80.1
The University of Southampton	74.5	78.5	83.2	82.3
University College London	57.8	73.7	66.6	78.4
The University of Warwick	77.1	74.1	76.4	79.5

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HEFCE and HESA

Manufacturing Industries: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to increase skills levels in manufacturing and technology industries. [208858]

Mr. Lammy: Manufacturing and technology industries are important drivers of growth in the UK economy. Ensuring employers have a skilled work force, capable of unlocking growth and innovation is critical to supporting these industries to succeed.

The Government are currently reviewing their Manufacturing Strategy, and as part of this process will look at how they can help British industry take advantage of the opportunities presented by globalisation and climate change. Exploring the future skills needs of manufacturing is a key element of the review.

Working with employers, the Government have introduced National Skills Academies, centres of excellence in the development of training programmes for their sector. A National Skills Academy for Manufacturing was launched in January 2007 and further academies covering the Process, Nuclear and Food and Drink Manufacturing sectors have been announced. We are also expanding and enhancing the Apprenticeship programme to ensure more employers and employees can benefit from high-quality work-based training.

In recognition of the need to go further in meeting the strategic skills needs of the economy, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced on 28 May that the Government will earmark £65 million of funding from the Train to Gain budget to help employers in the science, engineering and manufacturing technologies sector to ensure that their employees have the skills they need to drive future productivity and competitiveness.

Measurement: Wines

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward legislation to require all wine-selling on-trade establishments to provide the option of 125ml measure glasses to customers in addition to 175ml glasses; and if he will make a statement. [206572]

Ian Pearson: We have no plans to bring forward such legislation.

The aim of regulation in this area is to ensure consumers have adequate information on quantity and protection against short measure, without imposing any unnecessary burdens on business.

Under weights and measures legislation wine sold by the glass is required to be sold in specified quantities of 125 ml, 175 ml or a multiple of either to allow consumers to easily distinguish between the sizes, allowing them to make cost and value comparisons more easily.

Neurology: Research

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department is funding research into brain machine interfacing; and if he will make a statement. [209216]

Ian Pearson: In the area of brain-computer interfaces, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has awarded four grants totalling £816,347, three of which are ongoing and one completed.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much was spent on fee grants for part-time undergraduate students in England in the latest period for which figures are available; [206276]

(2) what expenditure on course grants for part-time undergraduate students in England was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [206278]

Bill Rammell: In financial year 2006-07, in England, part-time undergraduate students received £26 million in fee grants and £15 million in course grants.

Students: Plagiarism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the findings of the Academic Misconduct Benchmarking Research Project. [209484]

Bill Rammell: Student plagiarism, which is the subject of the Academic Misconduct Benchmarking Research project (AMBeR) is a serious matter, but one for which higher education institutions, as autonomous organisations, are responsible for addressing. Institutions are supported by the Higher Education Academy and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) who recently jointly produced a report of the second phase of the AMBeR project. Although the Government have made no formal assessment I understand the report's findings are that there are clusters of consistency in the sector's approach to applying penalties for plagiarism but that improved recording procedures could engender a more complete and transparent picture of activity across the sector. Positively, the incidence level of formally recorded cases reported in the survey demonstrates a lower level of plagiarism than that reported by most surveys. It also suggests that the vast majority of offences are first offences which indicates that current punitive measures are successfully reducing repeat offenders.

Sustainable Development: Education

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the *(a)* skills required to enable the UK to benefit from innovations in sustainable development technologies and *(b)* the qualifications which demonstrate such skills; [208638]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the extent to which course in subjects related to sustainable development in further and higher education institutions equip students with the skills required to facilitate the take-up of sustainable development technologies in the economy. [209334]

Bill Rammell: Because the environmental future is not easily predicted, we need to create potential that might enable future industries and industry shapes that cannot be predicted today. On 1 May 2008, the Government published "Building a low carbon economy: unlocking innovation and skills". This sets out how Government will make the UK one of the best locations in the world to develop and introduce low carbon and resource efficient products, processes, services and business models.

DIUS Ministers have met ministerial colleagues on a number of occasions during which the skills required for the UK to benefit from innovations in sustainable development technologies have been discussed.

DIUS officials are working proactively with employers, sector skills councils, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and expert bodies representing the environmental industries, as well as other Government Departments (DEFRA and BERR) to develop our evidence and understanding of the skills implications of the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient and sustainable economy and to ensure that these, at the heart of our skills system, capture a strategic skills proposition for a sustainable future.

An assessment of the qualifications required to support such skills will be part of this work and of the ongoing vocational qualifications reform programme. The programme will mean that employers, through their sector skills councils, will have a key role in determining which qualifications are needed to meet the skills needs of their industry.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many people *(a)* are studying for and *(b)* have completed a course of study under train to gain in (i) each region of England and (ii) local authority, broken down by level of qualification studied for; [209450]

(2) how many people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed the train to gain programme in (i) each region and (ii) each local authority area since its inception; and what targets for numbers of people participating in the programme there are for each (A) region and (B) local authority. [209451]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006, Train to Gain has grown quickly. It has now engaged over 80,000 employers, supported 419,320 employees to begin learning programmes, and delivered 167,500 full level 2 and 21,800 Skills for Life achievements. Recent evaluations of the service show that both employer and employee satisfaction with their experience of Train to Gain is high.

A breakdown of learner starts and achievements by region (and the LSC's National Employer Service, which works with employers with over 5,000 employees) is set out in Tables 1 and 2. Information on Train to Gain performance by local authority area is not held centrally.

In the demand-led skills system that the Government have created, the geographical distribution of Train to Gain learners is driven by employer demand. I receive regular reports on Train to Gain performance at regional level, and have recently completed a series of performance review meetings with each of the LSC regions. All LSC regions are developing plans to deliver their contribution to the overall planned growth in the service over the period to 2010-11.

Table 1: Train to Gain Learner Starts (April 2006 to March 2008)

LSC Region	*Full Level 2*	*Skills for Life*	*Level 3*
East Midlands	33,420	3,220	2,270
East of England	29,400	1,880	2,200
Greater London	35,490	6,260	6,580
North East	24,550	2,540	2,130
North West	53,560	5,210	5,330
South East	33,740	4,460	3,650
South West	27,420	1,100	2,510
West Midlands	44,790	5,490	4,790
Yorkshire and Humber	32,090	4,220	1,720
National Employer Service	28,890	6,710	3,700
Total	343,350	41,090	34,880

Table 2: Train to Gain Learner Achievements (April 2006 to March 2008)

LSC Region	*Full Level 2*	*Skills for Life*	*Level 3*
East Midlands	13,895	1,397	300
East of England	12,645	691	290
Greater London	10,627	2,568	780
North East	13,492	1,721	560
North West	25,629	2,384	1,040
South East	13,426	1,862	430
South West	11,577	564	330
West Midlands	21,618	3,414	770

Table 2. Train to Gain Learner Achievements (April 2006 to March 2008)

LSC Region	Full Level 2	Skills for Life	Level 3
Yorkshire and Humber	14,898	2,130	270
National Employer Service	29,743	5,109	3,140
Total	167,550	21,840	7,910

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African Children's Educational Trust

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to the African Children's Educational Trust for each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [209733]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following funding to the African Children's Educational Trust since 2000:

	Total (£)
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	127,080.00
2005	510,219.00
2006	579,238.00
2007	260,668.00
2008 (as of 6 June 2008)	205,923.00
Total	1,683,128.00

In addition to the aforementioned figures, DFID provided £96,000 in 2006 for the African Children's Educational Trust's research study on "Alternative Basic Education in countries emerging from conflict". The trust has also received some DFID funding for the administration of the DFID Scholarships and Training Scheme for Southern Sudan (in partnership with the British Council) between 2005-08.

Burma: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced persons in eastern Burma in need of humanitarian assistance in areas where the Burmese government prohibits access by foreign aid agencies. [209366]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is estimated that about 100,000 internally displaced people are living in areas of eastern Burma which are not accessible to agencies working inside Burma. Others are living in areas where access by international staff is very difficult, but they can be reached by Burmese staff and local partners of foreign aid agencies.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what cross-border projects for aid to Burma his Department is funding. [209360]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) recently agreed an allocation of £1 million for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium for 2008-09. This money may be used for cross-border assistance to internally displaced people in Burma as well as to support Burmese refugees in Thailand.

DFID also recently agreed funding of £102,780 for the Shan Women's Action Network for its work to improve health, education, livelihoods and women's rights among displaced Shan people in camps in Burma and Thailand.

DFID is also providing £1.35 million over four years for cross-border health care work on the Burma/China border undertaken by Health Unlimited.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated to cross-border aid to the poor and internally displaced in Karen state, Burma. [209459]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) funding for the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) may be used for cross-border assistance to internally displaced people in Karen and other states in eastern Burma, as well as for support to Burmese refugees in Thailand. DFID recently agreed an allocation to TBBC of £1 million for 2008-09. In 2007, TBBC spent about 11 per cent. of its budget on cross-border assistance.

Poor and internally displaced people in Karen State are also assisted through programmes inside Burma which are supported by DFID. These include the Three Diseases Fund, the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Initiative, International Development Enterprises, Save the Children, and local Burmese organisations.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of persons affected by Cyclone Nargis in Burma who had received humanitarian assistance as at 1 June 2008. [209361]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: At 1 June the UN estimated that one million of the 2.4 million people affected by Cyclone Nargis had received some humanitarian assistance; on 5 June the figure was revised to 1.3 million people. However, some of the people included in this figure have only received support on a one-off basis, so they will require further relief aid.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of discrimination against ethnic Karen people in the distribution of aid in the Irrawaddy delta. [209363]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We recognise that concerns have been expressed over possible discrimination against ethnic Karen in the distribution of aid in the Irrawaddy delta. We have, however, received no substantiated reports that this has taken place. Assistance provided by the

United Nations and international non-governmental organisations funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) is distributed according to the principles of impartiality and need, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department gave to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each year since 1997. [209215]

Gillian Merron: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1997 are laid out in the following tables:

Table 1 Total DFID bilateral expenditure 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Democratic Republic of Congo (£000)
1997-98	6,911
1998-99	552
1999-2000	37,005
2000-01	3,096
2001-02	5,558
2002-03	12,859
2003-04	17,173
2004-05	29,284
2005-06	58,832
2006-07	75,251

Table 2 Imputed DFID share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Democratic Republic of Congo (£000)
1997-98	4,259
1998-99	363
1999-2000	166
2000-01	3,305
2001-02	5,808
2002-03	54,472
2003-04	29,040
2004-05	26,047
2005-06	38,275
2006-07	26,570

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209427]

Gillian Merron: The proportion of staff in the Department for International Development benefiting from vocational training in the last three years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the numbers of staff benefiting from different types of training is not held centrally.

Developing Countries: Education

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to advance towards the goal of all children having access to primary education world-wide by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [208869]

Gillian Merron: The 2008 Education for All Global Monitoring Report records that global enrolment in primary education has increased from 647 million in 1999 to 688 million in 2005 but that some 72 million primary aged children worldwide (41 million girls) are still not enrolled in school. The UK Government are providing £8.5 billion over a 10-year period to 2015 in support of education in developing countries. The bulk of this support will help the poorest countries in Africa and Asia to develop and implement ambitious education sector plans to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015. The UK and France have agreed to each help support eight million children in school in Africa by the time of the 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa.

In addition to the UK's bilateral and multilateral support to education, the Government are actively engaged in galvanising international political action in support of Education for All particularly through the G8, which last year reaffirmed its commitment that no country committed to Education for All will be thwarted in their efforts through lack of resources. We continue to urge other donors to meet their promises on education. We are also working with the United Nations and other donors to accelerate action in achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), following last year's Call to Action by the Prime Minister and the United Nations' Secretary-General. Education is a key pillar of the Call to Action. We are working towards a plan for accelerated action on all the MDGs to be agreed at the United Nations hosted international conference, in New York, on 25 September.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what allocation of funding his Department has made to support implementation of the Government's strategy for tackling HIV in the developing world in the next three years; [209330]

(2) what progress has been made on the UK's commitment to universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment by 2010. [209527]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed £6 billion to strengthening health systems and services over seven years to 2015 in the updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world". The Government also committed to spend £200 million on social protection over three years to support the most vulnerable households, including orphans and vulnerable children. The UK will also increase by at least 50 per cent. its funding for research and development of AIDS vaccines and microbicides between 2008-13.

In addition to these recent commitments, the UK Government have made long-term commitments of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a 20-year commitment to the international drugs purchase facility UNITAID (2006-26), a 10-year commitment to the Medicines Transparency Alliance (2008-18), and £8.5 billion for education over 10 years to 2015.

A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

UNAIDS will assess progress against the interim universal access targets (milestones), set by countries during 2006-07, in the final quarter of 2008. Data prepared for the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS, 10-11 June, will inform this process.

Malawi: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department gave to Malawi in each year since 1997. [209222]

Gillian Merron: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Malawi since 1997 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1. Total DFID bilateral expenditure 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Malawi (£000)
1997-98	25,642
1998-99	47,195
1999-2000	46,408
2000-01	54,648
2001-02	45,485
2002-03	49,065
2003-04	54,437
2004-05	56,282
2005-06	68,588
2006-07	63,309

Table 2: Imputed DFID share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Malawi (£000)
1997-98	5,806
1998-99	25,819
1999-2000	12,817
2000-01	9,445
2001-02	5,510
2002-03	8,336
2003-04	5,217
2004-05	8,380
2005-06	20,810
2006-07	30,758

Sudan: Human Rights

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Abyei. [209512]

Gillian Merron: The humanitarian situation in Abyei is stable, and the UN has reported that there are sufficient resources to cover current needs. The Department for International Development (DFID) is liaising closely with the UN, which is co-ordinating the aid effort, and NGOs active in the region to ensure that the response is effective and appropriately resourced.

The international community moved quickly to provide assistance to residents fleeing the fighting. It is basing its response on estimates of 50,000 displaced southwards and a further 40,000 in war-affected communities. Less than 2,000 moved north. By 30 May, the World Food Programme had distributed 234 metric tons of food to over 28,000 people. The initial round of emergency non-food item distributions was completed on 5 June 2008. NGOs and UN agencies are providing health care and water and sanitation services.

The UN has made clear that additional funding from donors is not required at present. Existing stocks were sufficient to cover the initial response, and a proposal is being jointly developed for the UN's Central Emergency Relief Fund for further work. DFID will continue to liaise closely with the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs and others to monitor the need for further support.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level and type of aid assistance his Department is providing to Sudan in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [209736]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a bilateral framework of £105 million for Sudan in 2008-09. Around £40 million of this will be spent on humanitarian aid, and £65 million on recovery and development support. £70 million will be channelled through pooled funds managed by the World Bank or the UN. Funds will not be directed through the Government of Sudan.

Humanitarian

We have provisionally allocated £30 million to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) 2009 allocation. The CHF is a pooled fund allowing the UN's Humanitarian Coordinator to allocate funds to priority humanitarian needs in Sudan. We are also providing £10 million through NGO partners to address humanitarian needs in Darfur.

Recovery and development

As part of our ongoing commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), we are planning to provide £20 million to the National and Southern Multi-Donor Trust Funds. These fund priorities set out by the Joint Assessment Mission which followed the signing of the CPA in 2005. We are also providing up to £7 million to support elections, which are scheduled to take place in 2009; and £9 million through the Basic Services Fund, which enables the Government of South Sudan to coordinate NGOs to provide basic services such as healthcare and education to southern Sudan. Other funding will go towards core support for UN Development Programme's work on governance and the rule of law; new UN-administered funds for community-level peace building in Darfur and recovery in the South; and work on the environment.

Work Experience

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many 14 to 16 year old students undertook a period of work experience in his Department in each of the last four years; and whether a programme exists to encourage the participation of young people from a variety of areas and social backgrounds. [205068]

Gillian Merron: In the last four years the Department for International Development (DFID) has offered work experience opportunities in its London and East Kilbride offices through co-ordinated programmes involving local authorities and local schools. The numbers in each year were:

	Number
2004	20
2005	21
2006	19
2007	19

The scheme provides for young people from local London boroughs and the South Lanarkshire region with the aim of providing opportunities for young people from different areas and social backgrounds.

JUSTICE

Victims of Crime

13. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the rights of the victims of crime and their families to take part in court proceedings. [209553]

Maria Eagle: In April 2008 the Government concluded the Victims' Advocates Pilot Scheme. The pilots ran in five Crown courts and tested mechanisms to improve support and give a voice in court to relatives in murder and manslaughter cases. An evaluation report outlining the findings from these pilots is due to be published this summer (2008).

The Government have also introduced intermediaries to ensure witnesses with communication difficulties are supported to give best evidence. This followed the independent evaluation of the pathfinder phase of intermediary project which indicated that around half of trials would not have got to court without an intermediary.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

14. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to extend voting rights for prisoners in England and Wales. [209554]

Bridget Prentice: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Hirst *v.* United Kingdom requires the Government to reconsider its policy of a blanket ban on the voting rights of convicted prisoners.

In response to this we undertook a first stage consultation which concluded in March 2007. However, since that point, the context for the debate about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and in particular the exercise of the franchise, in the United Kingdom has changed significantly following the launch of the Governance of Britain Green Paper and publication of the Goldsmith review.

We consider it essential that any changes to the law to extend the franchise to those held in custody are considered in the context of the wider development of policy on the franchise and the rights that attach to British citizenship.

Sentencing: Knife Crime

15. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of sentencing options for those convicted of knife crime; and if he will make a statement. [209555]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are satisfied that the courts have a comprehensive range of sentences available in relation to knife crime. We have doubled the maximum sentence for possession from two to four years, and where a knife is used, more serious offences are charged, some of which can attract life imprisonment.

The courts take these matters very seriously. Last month, Sir Igor Judge, Head of Criminal Justice in the Court of Appeal, in the judgment of R *v.* Povey and others, said that

> "Even if the offender does no more than carry the weapon … when considering the seriousness of the offence courts should bear in mind the harm which the weapon might foreseeably have caused. So the message is stark. This is a serious offence and it should be treated with the seriousness it deserves".

Prison Security

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve prison security to reduce the supply of illegal drugs and mobile telephones to prisoners. [209556]

Mr. Hanson: A range of measures are in place to prevent illegal drugs, mobile phones and other contraband from entering prisons. The National Offender Management Service is working closely with partner agencies to develop and trial new technologies and procedures.

Prison Work

17. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of unpaid work requirements were completed by prisoners in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [209557]

Maria Eagle: Under Prison Rule 31 prisoners are required to work. It is Prison Service policy that all prisoners who participate in purposeful activity are paid. The average purposeful activity per prisoner per week for 2007-08 was 25.3 hours.

21. **Mr. George Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with business representatives on the expansion of prison work programmes. [209564]

Mr. Hanson: Since the launch of the Reducing Re-offending Corporate Alliance we have established links with many employers and, as was noted in the Ministry of Justice's Prison Policy update published in January, we want to expand and further develop these links. A ministerial led forum with the private, public and third sectors, was held in May to discuss how we can further work together and we intend to hold another such event in autumn.

Early Release Schemes

18. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released under early release schemes in May 2008. [209560]

Mr. Hanson: The latest available information relates to April, when there were about 2,600 releases on end of custody licence, 950 releases under home detention curfew and 50 prisoners removed from the country under the early removal scheme. About 100 prisoners were released on parole.

Electoral Fraud

19. **Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on postal vote fraud; and what response he has made to them. [209561]

Bridget Prentice: Since 1 January 2008, 10 letters have been received from members of Parliament and four parliamentary questions asked in relation to postal fraud. We have also received a copy of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Report entitled "The Purity of Elections in the UK". Our response to these representations has been to confirm how seriously the Government take the integrity of the electoral process, including postal voting.

It is clear that postal voting has proved popular with the electorate and has helped to boost turnout at elections. We have recognised the need to balance accessibility with security, and have put in place a range of measures to safeguard the security of postal voting. This has included the introduction of a system of personal identifiers for postal voters to ensure postal votes counted at an election are valid.

We are, however, not complacent on this issue and will consider what further action may be taken to ensure postal voting is secure.

Prison Welfare

20. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to prevent suicide and self-harm by people in custody. [209563]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service published a revised prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy in October 2007.

This builds on several years of learning from the experiences of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, and encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work and addresses issues such as mental health, drugs, resettlement, leadership and training.

Single Judge Model

22. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received on the operation of the single judge model at the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre. [209565]

Maria Eagle: The qualitative evaluation of the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre published in October 2007 found strong judicial case management has improved efficient court operation.

In addition to the project at North Liverpool, and the Community Justice Initiative at Salford, community justice has now been extended to eleven further areas around the country. The problem solving approach with judicial continuity in case handling has great potential to tackle the causes of crime and reduce re-offending by those subject to its rigours.

Electoral Register

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward proposals for a system of individual voter registration. [209548]

Bridget Prentice: We are already committed to the principle of individual registration. This will be far-reaching reform, and it will be undertaken with great care both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration in Great Britain.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what processes are in place to ensure that Clearsprings Ltd adhere to their contractual obligations on consultation on bail accommodation in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement; [209890]

(2) what monitoring has taken place in the last 12 months of the efficacy of consultation processes undertaken with *(a)* Peterborough City Council, *(b)* local residents and *(c)* other agencies by Clearsprings in respect of bail accommodation in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement; [209891]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Clearsprings contract for bail accommodation in the Peterborough area; and if he will make a statement. [210160]

Mr. Hanson: The East of England regional offender manager holds monthly management meetings with ClearSprings' regional manager which include discussions on the monitoring of property, consultation with the police, probation and local authority. Consultation is also monitored at fortnightly national contract review meetings.

I have met with ClearSprings management to discuss the operation of the contract nationally.

ClearSprings is contractually obliged to consult the police, local authority and probation about locations. There is not a consultation process with local residents because the properties are the private rented homes of those living there and there is no change of use.

I have only received representation on the service in Peterborough from the hon. Member.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to include in future quarterly ministerial statements on coroners' inquests relating to military personnel *(a)* whether a Board of Inquiry convened for each case, *(b)* the report date of each Board of Inquiry, *(c)* cause of death, *(d)* critical findings from completed inquests and *(e)* steps taken in response. [208721]

Bridget Prentice: The Minister for the Armed Forces and I are considering whether future written ministerial statements should include Board of Inquiry information, and will write to the hon. Member to give our response. We will place a copy of our letter in the Libraries of the Houses. Under rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1983 a coroner may make a report at the end of an inquest to a person or organisation where the coroner considers that action should be taken to prevent future deaths. The Ministry of Defence takes notice of all critical findings made by coroners and takes appropriate action. I am, however, proposing to amend rule 43 with effect from July to improve the system for disseminating coroners' reports and recommendations. For the first time organisations including Government Departments will be required to send a written response to the coroner detailing what action they propose to take. In turn, the coroner will send a copy of both the report and response to me, and I will provide a regular summary of action taken to Parliament. It may not be appropriate to include details of the cause of death given the sensitive and personal nature of this information.

Court Proceedings: Separation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many court proceedings under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 were undertaken in relation to a dispute arising from separating cohabiting couples in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [208413]

(2) how many court proceedings under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 were undertaken in relation to a dispute arising from separating cohabiting couples in (a) 2005-06 and (b) 2006-07. [208414]

Bridget Prentice: Information on court proceedings issued under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 is not held centrally, because court databases do not identify proceedings issued in relation to this particular legislation. This information could therefore only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Information on proceedings issued under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 is available on a calendar year rather than financial year basis. There were 1,288 private law applications made under this Schedule during 2005, 1,221 during 2006 and a provisional total of 1,258 during 2007.

These figures cover all family courts in England and Wales and count the number of children on whose behalf applications were made, rather than the number of court cases. Applications can be made by separating couples who had previously cohabited, by parents who had never lived together and, in certain unusual circumstances, by divorced parents. However, it is not possible to identify these groups separately within the available data.

Courts: Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Lord Justices, *(b)* High Court judges, *(c)* recorders, *(d)* Masters and registrars, *(e)* district judges and *(f)* deputy district judges there were in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) disability; and if he will make a statement. [209709]

Mr. Straw: The following tables provide available information relating to gender and ethnicity. The figures for masters and registrars are included within those for district judges given they are of the same judicial band and limited in number. Extensive historic data on disability have not been collected. In 2006-07 judges were invited to provide this information with the following result:

	Number
Senior Circuit Judges	2
Circuit Judges	13
District Judges	[1]8
Recorders	9
Deputy District Judges	3
Deputy District Judges (Magistrates Courts)	3
Member of the Appeals Service	1

[1] Including one district judge (Principal Registry of the Family Division).

[2] Including one deputy district judge (Principal Registry of the Family Division).

In total 39 judges declared a disability in this exercise. Plans are under way to record the disabilities declared by newly appointed Judges in the future.

Diversity Breakdown from 2003-07

		2003					
		Male		Female		Of ethnic minority origin	
Post	Total	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary	11	11	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Heads of Division (excluding LCJ)	4	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00
Lord Justices of Appeal	35	32	91.43	3	8.60	0	0.00
High Court Judges	106	100	94.34	6	5.70	0	0.00
Circuit Judges (including TCC)	620	562	90.65	58	9.40	4	0.60

Diversity Breakdown from 2003-07

2003

Post	*Total*	*Male*		*Female*		*Of ethnic minority origin*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Recorders	1389	1213	87.33	176	12.70	41	3.00
District Judges (including Family Division)	426	347	81.46	79	18.50	10	2.30
Deputy District Judges (including Family Division)	787	626	79.54	161	20.50	12	1.50
District Judges (MC)	104	82	78.85	22	21.20	3	2.90
Deputy District Judges (MC)	174	134	77.01	40	23.00	12	5.90
Total	3656	3110	85.07	546	14.90	82	2.20

2004

Post	*Total*	*Male*		*Female*		*Of ethnic minority origin*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary	12	11	91.67	1	8.30	0	0.00
Heads of Division (excluding LC)	4	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00
Lord Justices of Appeal	37	35	94.59	2	5.40	0	0.00
High Court Judges	105	97	92.38	8	7.60	0	0.00
Circuit Judges (including TCC)	610	552	90.49	58	9.50	4	0.70
Recorders	1396	1211	86.77	185	13.30	45	3.20
District Judges (including Family Division)	433	351	81.06	82	18.90	11	2.50
Deputy District Judges (including Family Division)	801	618	77.15	183	22.80	17	2.10
District Judges (MC)	104	84	80.77	20	19.20	3	2.90
Deputy District Judges (MC)	173	133	76.88	40	23.10	12	6.90
Total	3675	3095	84.22	580	15.80	92	2.50

2005

Post	*Total*	*Male*		*Female*		*Of ethnic minority origin*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary	12	11	91.67	1	8.30	0	0.00
Heads of Division (excluding LC)	4	3	75.00	1	25.00	0	0.00
Lord Justices of Appeal	37	35	94.59	2	5.40	0	0.00
High Court Judges	107	97	90.65	10	9.30	1	0.90
Circuit Judges (including TCC)	641	574	89.55	67	10.50	5	0.80
Recorders	1442	1237	85.78	205	14.20	56	3.90
District Judges (including Family Division)	430	346	80.47	84	19.50	11	2.60
Deputy District Judges (including Family Division)	826	619	74.94	207	25.10	21	2.50
District Judges (MC)	128	101	78.91	27	21.10	5	3.90
Deputy District Judges (MC)	167	128	76.65	39	23.40	10	6.00
Total	3794	3151	83.05	643	16.90	109	2.90

2006

Post	*Total*	*Male*		*Female*		*Of ethnic minority origin*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary	12	11	91.67	1	8.30	0	0.00
Heads of Division (excluding LC)	5	5	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lord Justices of Appeal	37	34	91.89	3	8.10	0	0.00
High Court Judges	107	96	89.72	11	10.20	1	0.90
Circuit Judges (including TCC)	631	560	88.75	71	11.30	10	1.60
Recorders	1401	1202	85.80	199	14.20	67	4.80
District Judges (including Family Division)	449	350	77.95	99	22.00	14	3.10
Deputy District Judges (including Family Division)	840	611	72.74	229	27.30	36	4.30
District Judges (MC)	134	103	76.87	31	23.10	5	3.70
Deputy District Judges (MC)	158	124	78.48	34	21.50	9	5.70
Total	3774	3096	82.03	678	18.00	142	3.80

		2007					
		Male		Female		Of ethnic minority origin	
Post	Total	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary	12	11	91.67	1	8.30	0	0.00
Heads of Division (excluding LCJ)	4	4	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lord Justices of Appeal	37	34	91.89	3	8.10	0	0.00
High Court Judges	108	98	90.74	10	9.30	1	0.90
Circuit Judges (including TCC)	639	566	88.58	73	11.40	9	1.40
Recorders	1206	1024	84.91	182	15.10	53	4.40
District Judges (including Family Division)	450	349	77.56	101	22.40	14	3.10
Deputy District Judges (including Family Division)	780	561	71.92	219	28.10	30	3.85
District Judges (MC)	139	106	76.26	33	23.70	7	5.10
Deputy District Judges (MC)	169	127	75.15	42	24.85	9	5.30
Total	3544	2880	81.26	664	18.70	123	3.50

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are (*a*) male, (*b*) female, (*c*) from an ethnic minority, (*d*) disabled and (e) not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208397]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, bringing together the Department for Constitutional Affairs, Her Majesty's Courts Service and Associated Offices, the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The latest available figures of directly employed civil servants are available as at 31 March 2008 and are detailed in the following table for (*a*) males, (*b*) females, (*c*) from an ethnic minority and (*d*) disabled. For (*e*) no heterosexual information is currently collated by any of the MOJ Agencies but there are plans to begin collating this from 2009.

SIP Headcount as at 31 March 2008

		Gender			
	SIP Headcount	Male	Female	Ethnicity	Disability
MOJ total	80840	42635	38005	5763	2369
Proportion as a percentage[1]	100	52.87	47.13	8.22	3.2

[1] Calculated in line with Cabinet Office Guidance and Best Practice on Diversity of declared responses only

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were (*a*) male, (*b*) female, (*c*) from an ethnic minority, (*d*) disabled and (*e*) not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208375]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, Her Majesty's Courts Service and associated offices, the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The current terms and conditions of employees within the Ministry of Justice agencies have not been harmonised and the former Department for Constitutional Affairs including Her Majesty's Courts Service and associated offices, and those within the Prison and Probation Services and National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The latest available figures, provided from both the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and associated offices and from the public sector Prison Service, are for those employees in post on the 1 April 2007 who received a performance related bonus for their last appraisal reporting period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and are detailed in the following table for (*a*) males, (*b*) females, (*c*) from an ethnic background and (*d*) disabled. For (*e*) not heterosexual information is not currently collated by any of the MoJ agencies but there are plans to begin collating this from 2009.

Former Department for Constitutional Affairs and associated offices

The former Department of Constitutional Affairs is committed to a pay system that recognises good performance by its employees and information on the number of staff receiving a performance related bonus as part of their appraisal is provided in the following table. Performance is assessed under the common performance management system. For employees whose performance is rated as exceeded a small bonus is paid along with the annual pay increase. The information related to performance related pay and does not include information of bonuses given through the Reward and Recognition Scheme that operates alongside the performance related pay scheme.

Prison and Probation Services

Information on the number of public sector Prison Service staff receiving a performance related bonus as part of their regular staff appraisal is provided in the table. The information relates only to bonuses awarded as part of the normal appraisal system and does not include bonuses awarded through the Service's Special Bonus Scheme. Prison officer grades, operational support grades and health care staff do not receive performance-related bonuses and have therefore been excluded from the figures.

National Offender Management Service, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform

The National Offender Management Service, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are providing information as part of the Home Office response as at the same dates. The information that they have made available cannot be broken down into just their areas and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

SIP headcount of those within the performance management system as at 1 April 2007 and performance exceeded box marks, 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

			Gender			
	SIP headcount	Performance exceeded box marks	(a) Male	(b) Female	(c) Ethnicity	(d) Disability
DCA	26,596	2,709	840	1,869	221	88
DCA proportion (percentage)[1]	—	10.2	3.16	7.03	0.9	0.33
PSBS	16,029	3,617	1,512	2,105	130	145
PSPS proportion (percentage)[1]	—	23	9	13	0.8	6

[1] Calculated in line with Cabinet Office Guidance and Best Practise on Diversity of declared responses only

Judges

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of senior judges were previously *(a)* Masters and district judges and *(b)* Queen's Counsel. [209122]

Mr. Straw: 'Senior Judges' are defined in s.109(5) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 as the Heads of Division, the Lords Justices of Appeal and the puisne judges of the High Court. None of the current holders of these offices was previously a Master or a District Judge. Of the 152 current holders of these offices, all except seven (5 per cent.) were previously Queen's Counsel.

Judges: Conditions of Employment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which stakeholders were consulted in the decision to exclude Masters and district judges from applying for certain senior appointments, including as designated civil judges. [209120]

Mr. Straw: No decision has been taken to exclude Masters and district judges from applying for certain senior appointments, that is High Court and above, or as designated civil judges.

However, in some senior circuit judge competitions in the past five years, but not those for designated civil judges, there were additional non-statutory eligibility criteria imposed to ensure business needs would be met by successful candidates. Some of these indicated an expectation that candidates would have had judicial experience of a level higher than that of Masters and district judges.

Judges: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors are considered in the selection process of candidates for senior judicial appointments. [209121]

Mr. Straw: The JAC applies generic qualities and abilities to define merit: intellectual capacity, personal qualities; an ability to understand and deal fairly, authority and communication skills, efficiency.

For the most senior appointments (Lord Chief Justice and Heads of Division, and Lords Justices of Appeal), the Constitutional Reform Act (CRA) 2005 prescribes that it is for selection panels established under the Act to determine the selection procedure (CRA 2005—Ss 70, 71 and 79, 80).

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what qualifications are required of a person to be on the selection panel for senior judicial appointments. [209123]

Mr. Straw: The composition of selection panels for appointments of the Lord Chief Justice, Heads of Division, and Lords Justices of Appeal is prescribed by the Constitutional Reform Act (CRA) 2005 (Ss 71 and 80).

For all other judicial offices at the High Court and below, it is for the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) to determine the selection process to be applied, including the composition of the panel (s88(1) CRA). For the two High Court appointment selection exercises, the JAC has decided that the sift and interview panels should consist of JAC Commissioners, augmented by judicial members where appropriate.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the members of the selection panels for senior judicial positions have come from an ethnic minority in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years. [209124]

Mr. Straw: For the two High Court selection exercises run by Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) the panels comprised:

2007-33.33 per cent. BME.

2008-25 per cent. BME.

Information relating to the years before the launch of the JAC, in April 2006, cannot be accessed in the time available. I will write to the hon. Member once the information has been collated and place copies in the Libraries of each House.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of senior judicial positions were subject to open competition in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years. [209129]

Mr. Straw: All High Court appointments in the past 12 months have been subject to open competition. Appointments to the Court of Appeal in the past 12 months have been made from among the judges of the High Court by a special selection panel of the Judicial Appointments Commission, chaired by the Lord Chief

Justice. No Heads of Division have been appointed in the past 12 months. The process of application to apply for appointment to the High Court was introduced in 1998, although the Lord Chancellor retained the right to appoint without application if he chose to do so until the implementation of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those who currently hold senior judicial posts have had no previous judicial experience; [209151]

(2) what percentage of people who hold senior judicial posts have had no previous judicial experience. [209152]

Mr. Straw: All current High Court judges have had previous judicial experience either as Circuit Judges., Recorders, or deputy High Court judges, or a combination of these. All current Heads of Division and Lords Justices have previous experience of the levels of the judiciary below them.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people who applied for senior judicial posts in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years have a record of previous judicial experience; [209153]

(2) what percentage of those people who have applied for senior judicial posts in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last 10 years have a record of judicial experience. [209154]

Mr. Straw: In the 2006-07 High Court exercise, 136 applied who had previous judicial experience. This equates to 94 per cent. Information relating to the years before the launch of the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), in April 2006, cannot be accessed in the time available. I will write to my right hon. Friend once the information has been collated and place copies in the Libraries of each House.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at what intervals risk assessments are carried out on each life sentenced prisoner in order to assess *(a)* progress, *(b)* readiness to progress to a lower category prison and *(c)* other relevant factors. [209107]

Mr. Hanson: Risk assessments on life sentenced prisoners are carried out at annual sentence planning reviews. At the annual review, the previous risk assessment is reviewed and updated. The review of risk assessment will take into account progress in prison, readiness for re-categorisation and all other relevant factors.

At any of the annual reviews, consideration of the prisoner's risks may prompt the need for further specialist reports. Other specialist risk assessment tools may be utilised depending on the nature of the index offence and the presenting risk factors.

At least every three years, a full set of review reports is prepared by all professionals involved in working with the offender. These reports provide an ongoing picture of the offender's development during the sentence and help to provide detailed information on the offender's progress to the Parole Board. The risk assessment is also reviewed and updated.

Aside from the scheduled reviews, risk assessments and categorisation will be reviewed as soon as any new significant information comes to light.

Indeterminate sentence prisoners will not be released until the Parole Board decides that the risk of harm which they present may be safely managed in the community.

Miscarriages of Justice: Victim Support

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what post-release support is provided to victims of miscarriage of justice. [209559]

Maria Eagle: In England and Wales, the Citizens Advice Miscarriages of Justice Support Service, which we fund, provides advice, guidance and support to such victims. Additionally, section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides, in certain specified circumstances, for payment of compensation following the quashing of some convictions.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mortgage possession orders were made in each county court in the East of England in each of the last five years. [209390]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in all county courts in the East of England since 2003.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders[2], [3] made in the county courts[4] in the east of England

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Basildon	478	612	910	1,048	1,057
Bedford	162	186	311	268	
Bury St Edmunds	113	124	191	220	
Cambridge	144	194	266	327	351
Chelmsford	173	226	355	381	363
Colchester	300	385	542	695	778
Harlow	139	183	258	310	
Hertford	88	86	134	198	
Hitchin	155	183	288	321	
Huntingdon	105	121	151	222	
Ipswich	164	224	287	358	328
King's Lynn	152	165	271	378	
Lowestoft	153	197	297	300	
Luton	340	458	718	859	818
Norwich	220	251	414	490	430
Peterborough	257	300	521	719	599

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders[2, 3] made in the county courts[4] in the east of England

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[5]
St Albans	87	78	102	158	
Watford	249	258	418	516	508
Southend-on-Sea	348	416	620	657	606
East	3,829	4,647	7,058	8,405	
East and South East	8,201	10,050	15,220	17,693	17,824

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[3] Includes suspended orders and orders made.

[4] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.

[5] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data on mortgage possession orders. As a result it is only possible to provide court-level figures for those courts with direct on-site PCOL access for 2007. Therefore, upward adjustments have been made for the missing data at HMC[illegible]onal level, provided at the end of the table.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Employment

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on prisoners seeking to contact Jobcentre Plus of the change to an exclusively telephone-based claims system; and if he will make a statement. [206848]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the effect on prisoners seeking to contact Jobcentre Plus of the change to an exclusively telephone-based claims system.

No assessment has taken place specifically for prisoners with regard to the effect of the introduction of telephone based claims.

However, in recognition of the fact that offenders have particular difficulties in returning to the labour market, Jobcentre Plus operates the Freshstart process to improve the transition from custody to work. This enables prisoners to have a New Jobseeker Interview arranged for them at their local Jobcentre Plus office, normally within 48 hours of release.

Freshstart runs alongside the telephone based claims process, so that prisoners can continue to access the full range of Jobcentre Plus programmes and services.

Jobcentre Plus has Employment and Benefit Surgery (EBS) Advisers working in prisons who book many of the Freshstart appointments and offer advice and signposting to other benefits, as well as help and support with job search activity, training opportunities and programmes such as New Deal and Progress2work-LinkUp.

Although our preference is to take new claims over the telephone, customers who are unable to use the telephone still have alternative methods of contacting us available, which include:

arranging for a third party/nominated advocate to do this on their behalf;

an option for the customer still to have a face-to-face interview at their local Jobcentre Plus office, or where appropriate, a home visit can be arranged;

text phone facility;

having access to language interpreting services as and when necessary;

use of our e-service to submit information over the internet and register an intent to claim.

Prisons: Worcestershire

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any sites in Worcestershire are under consideration as a potential location for a Titan prison; and if he will make a statement. [210013]

Mr. Hanson: Searches for suitable sites for Titan prisons are currently under way. The priority search areas are London and the South East, the North West and the West Midlands.

Sentencing: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of guidance issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council to judges about consistency of sentencing; and if he will make a statement. [209125]

Mr. Hanson: The purpose of the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council is to produce sentencing guidelines which, as all courts are required to have regard to them, encourage consistency in sentencing throughout England and Wales. Whilst no guidelines have been issued specifically to address consistency, the objective of achieving it is implicit in all the council's work. The Library will now hold all definitive guidelines, which are also available on the Sentencing Guidelines Council's website:

www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2379W, on young offenders: custodial treatment, how many children assessed as being at risk of *(a)* self-harm, *(b)* mental health problems, *(c)* drug dependency and *(d)* other risk factors were accommodated in (i) young offender institutions, (ii) secure training centres and (iii) secure children's homes at the latest date for which figures are available. [209988]

Mr. Hanson: The following table, based on data provided by the Youth Justice Board, shows the number of young people in custody aged between 10 and 17 who have known risk factors, as of 31 May 2008.

Many young people in custody have more then one risk factor and may therefore be included in more than one category. There is a wide range of other possible risk factors. Two of the most important, bullying and first experience of custody, are shown in the table.

	Secure children's home	Secure training centre	Young offender institution
Self harm	56	80	178
Mental health	45	53	257
Drug dependency	53	68	151

	Secure children's home	*Secure training centre*	*Young offender institution*
Bullying	12	20	71
First time in custody	47	55	339

Note
Data drawn from the Youth Justice Board's administrative systems

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children attending *(a)* children's centres, *(b)* maintained nurseries, *(c)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(d)* childminders are from black, minority or ethnic backgrounds. [210027]

Beverley Hughes: The estimated number and proportion of children of black or minority ethnic backgrounds attending child care settings, according to providers, is shown in Table 1. Data are taken from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey.

Table 1: Children attending child care provision of black or minority ethnic origin (provider estimates)

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
Full day care	96,100	13
Full day care in children's centres	10,250	26
Sessional	35,400	9
Out of school clubs	53,700	13
Childminders	27,500	10
Nursery schools	10,800	30
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	127,600	25

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1530W, on children: day care, what steps the Government is taking to increase the number of childcare staff who are male. [210030]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to increasing the diversity of the early years and child care work force, particularly increasing the proportion of men in the work force. We have tasked the Children's Workforce Development Council in taking the lead in a national recruitment campaign that will highlight roles and encourage men into the children's work force.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of funding of all childcare settings received from local authorities which was spent on training staff in each year for which records are available. [210102]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not routinely collect this information from local authorities. £440 million funding is being made available through the outcomes, quality and inclusion strand of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare grant between 2008 and 2011 to improve the quality of early years provision, including raising the skills and qualifications of staff. It is up to local authorities to determine how to use this funding according to local needs and circumstances. In addition, funding of £305 million is also being made available over the same period through the Graduate Leader Fund to deliver an increase in the number of graduates leading practice in private, voluntary and independent sector full day care settings. £232 million of this is to support settings to employ the graduate leaders. This funding is to be passported onto settings who may use it to contribute to salary costs, provide continuous professional development for the graduate or to support an existing staff member in the setting to train towards becoming the graduate early years professional.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W, on children: disadvantaged, how much additional funding is being made available for *(a)* the training materials and courses of practitioners delivering outreach services and *(b)* practitioners delivering outreach services without other sources of funding. [210178]

Beverley Hughes: Pursuant to my answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 950W, we have set aside £7 million across the three financial years 2008-11 to fund the project I outlined. At this early stage we have not allocated specific amounts for the individual elements of training materials, courses and subsidised places. However, we expect the majority of the expenditure will be incurred in the later years.

Children's Centres: Disabled

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres are implementing the early support programme for young disabled children; and when that programme will be available in all Sure Start centres. [209987]

Beverley Hughes: My Department does not collect data on the number of children's centres implementing the Early Support Programme (ESP). ESP was developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health in partnership with a range of voluntary organisations and the central programme team has been based in the voluntary sector at the Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID) since 2002. The ESP Programme Team's report in October 2007 showed that 99 local authorities were implementing Early Support, 14 authorities were starting to implement it, nine authorities had not committed to start the programme, and no assessment could be made on the remaining 28 authorities due to insufficient information.

The Government have invested an additional £900,000 during 2008-09 to mainstream the ESP approach more widely. This funding covers continued regional consultancy to support and train LAs to implement and embed ESP, a national marketing campaign to raise the profile of

ESP across LAs and health services and a new website which provides information for parents, professionals and service providers.

Children's Centres: Health Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of Sure Start children's centres being used by primary care trusts to channel health services delivery. [209986]

Beverley Hughes: We now have over 2,900 Sure Start Children's Centres providing access to a range of multi-agency support services for families with young children. We would expect all children's centres either to be hosting a range of health services on site or to be working closely with their local primary care trust in the planning and commissioning of health services.

We do not collect national data on the level of primary care trust engagement with centres.

Connexions: Internet

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there are plans to update the Connexions Direct website. [209925]

Beverley Hughes: The Connexions Direct website is regularly updated to a planned monthly schedule, ensuring that the website and associated helpline continue to support departmental and wider government policies, remaining current, topical, responsive, up to date, and relevant to young people and their needs.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204700]

Kevin Brennan: The latest published statistics against overall civil service targets were at October 2007, and are available on the Civil Service website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp.

The final measurement against the targets will be published in Autumn 2008.

The position for the Department as at 31 March 2008 is set out in the following table:

Diversity Target	*Percentage*
Women in the SCS	47.1
Women in top management posts	40
Ethnic Minority staff in SCS	1.83
Disabled staff in the SCS	1.83

Extended Schools

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the extended schools allocation *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is in 2008-09 in each English local education authority; [210018]

(2) what the estimated extended schools funding per capita is for each child of *(a)* primary school age and *(b)* secondary school age in 2008-09. [210068]

Beverley Hughes: Information on local authority extended schools funding in 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been published, and all local authority allocations are available on the Teachernet website at

www.teachernet.gov.uk

except Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant 2008-09 allocations, which are available on the Sure Start website at

www.surestart.gov.uk.

Other funding is also available to support extended schools, including money available to support personalised learning during and beyond the school day, and money available to support neighbourhood renewal.

It is for each local authority, in consultation with schools and other children's service partners, to develop a strategy for how this funding will be allocated to help schools develop extended services, based on local needs. It is therefore not possible to determine what the funding per capita is for each child of primary or secondary school age.

Family Law: Mediation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to increase the number of family law mediation schemes in England and Wales. [208761]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to encouraging greater use of family mediation. The Government believe that mediation can have considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved. We are working on a number of measures aimed at raising awareness, and at promoting the use of family mediation in appropriate cases.

We have established the Family Mediation Helpline and supporting website (0845 60 26 627 www.FamilyMediationHelpline.co.uk), sponsored a public awareness campaign, are facilitating judicial and court-staff awareness seminars, and are supporting in-court referral schemes.

There are already a number of in-court referral schemes, where family mediators work together with CAFCASS and the courts to refer appropriate cases for mediation.

When implemented, provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court rules and court forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

The Legal Services Commission's proposals to revise the family fee structure will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation. Under the proposals, it would be in the interests of the solicitor to make a referral to mediation and to do so at an earlier stage.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 13 March 2008, concerning his constituent, Miss A. Fox which was transferred from the Department for Justice to his Department on 25th March 2008 (reference: 194104) and returned on 25 April 2008 (reference: 2008/0035703PO); and what the reason for the transfer of correspondence was. [209235]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The reply has unfortunately been delayed because of an administrative error. My right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) the Minister with responsibility for prisons and I will write to him very shortly.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 952W, on parents: advisory services, how much has been made available to fund the 77 Respect parenting experts; whether the experts will deliver the parenting programmes or refer and manage others in delivering the programme; and what the estimated cost is of funding at least one parenting expert in each local authority in the future. [210167]

Beverley Hughes: £3.85 million per year has been allocated for the 77 Respect parenting experts for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. In addition, funding for additional parenting experts (at least one in every local authority), is being provided: £9 million for 2008-09, £12.5 million for 2009-10 and £12.5 million for 2010-11. The expectation is that both the 77 Respect parenting experts and the new parenting experts will deliver parenting programmes themselves.

Parents: Public Participation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 952-53W, on parents: public participation, what estimate he has made of the annual cost of *(a)* running and *(b)* consulting the Parents' Panel. [210177]

Beverley Hughes: The answer I gave on 4 June 2008 explained that we are in the midst of a competitive OJEU procurement exercise to appoint an external organisation with the right skills and experience to run the panel. The organisation will also run an associated survey of parents on their confidence in their parenting role and in the support services available to them. The cost will be subject to tender returns from the five short listed bidders and a key selection criterion for the procurement is value for money. It would therefore not be appropriate to prejudice the competitive process by publishing a specific figure.

The result of the successful bidder's proposal will be announced on 31 July together with the agreed contract value. these details will be published through an OJEU award notice which is universally accessible to all.

Pupils: Incontinence

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to school nurses on dealing with children with continence problems. [208227]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

All schools in England were made aware, in June 2000, of the Department's publication Good Practice in Continence Services. The Department also produced a more general guidance document with the then Department for Education and Skills called Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs: A Good Practice Guide.

It was followed by publication of the NSF Continence Exemplar in October 2007, mapping out a typical case of child incontinence and detailing the services that should be available. This is used by health professionals, including school nurses, as guidance.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services: Children and Young People who are ill published in 2004 noted the importance of continence services for children and young people.

Copies of all these documents have been placed in the Library.

Schools: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Canvey, *(b)* Castle Point and *(c)* Essex were not allocated places at their first choice school in each of the last five years. [209628]

Jim Knight: This is the first year that local authorities were required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made to parents on National Offer Day. Data have not been collected at a constituency level. Figures for Essex local authority, in which Canvey Island and Castle Point are situated, show that 19.2 per cent. (3,087) of children resident in that authority who were eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2008 were not offered a place at their parents' first choice school. 96 per cent. were offered a preferred school. National Offer Day is the first part of the process of obtaining a preferred school so these figures are likely change e.g. outcomes of appeals will have an impact.

Sure Start Programme: Per Capita Costs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on Sure Start for each child eligible for support from the programme in each year since it began. [210024]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect data on the number of children who are eligible for support from the Sure Start programme. The total spending in each year since the Sure Start programme was established is provided in the following table:

£ million

	Capital	*Revenue*	*Total*
1999-2000	3.6	3.2	6.8
2000-01	1.3	32.8	34.1
2001-02	11.0	104.8	115.8
2002-03	82.8	174.3	257.1
2003-04	96.9	308.0	404.9
2004-05	159.7	371.2	530.9
2005-06	353.6	477.6	831.2
2006-07	236.1	603.8	839.9

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements his Department has made to facilitate effective close working between Connexions and the new advancement and careers service. [209922]

Beverley Hughes: My officials are working with officials from DIUS on the development of the new adult advancement and careers service to ensure that a joined-up service will be delivered. Both Departments are also working on an all age careers strategy that will make links between careers services for young people and for adults and ensure coherent delivery.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities are *(a)* delivering Connexions services in-house, *(b)* sub-contracting services to former Connexions Partnerships and *(c)* tendering out to other providers. [210065]

Beverley Hughes: The Connexions service operates in England only. Based on the latest information held by the Department, the number of local authorities delivering Connexions services in each of the ways described is as follows:

(a) delivering Connexions services in-house: 35;

(b) sub-contracting the services to former Connexions Partnerships: 53;

(c) tendering out to other providers: 62.

Vocational Guidance: Expenditure

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on careers guidance for young people in England in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1997. [209921]

Beverley Hughes: In April 2001, responsibility for providing careers advice passed from the Careers Service to the Connexions Service. Connexions provides services to 13 to 19-year-olds and to people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 24. The following table shows the amount of central Government funding allocated to the Connexions Service and the Careers Service since 1997. Information on the amount spent on careers guidance is not collected centrally. However, an independent study undertaken in 2006 concluded that, on average, around 42 per cent. of a Connexions Partnership's expenditure was on information, advice and guidance.

£ million

Year	*Connexions partnerships*	*Careers services*
1997-98		192
1998-99		210
1999-2000		223
2000-01		233
2001-02	110	173
2002-03	337	52
2003-04	439	
2004-05	458	
2005-06	464	
2006-07	466	
2007-08	467	
2008-09	469	

Note:
The above figures reflect the staged way in which Connexions was introduced from April 2001

Vocational Guidance: Training

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has commissioned research to evaluate the initial training and continuing professional development available to those delivering information, advice and guidance and careers education. [209923]

Beverley Hughes: Everyone providing information, advice and guidance to young people on learning and careers should have the skills and knowledge that they need to provide excellent service. To ensure this, the Training and Development Agency for Schools has been asked

> "to review the support that ... (they) provide for the delivery of careers education in schools, and (to) consider more widely the further ITT and CPD support needed by all key stage 4 and post 16 teachers to ensure that they are aware of the pathways for progression through the 14-19 phase in school, college and work-based settings ... (so that they) can talk confidently to students about progression, within and from their own subject and (about) the range of qualifications to which their subject contributes'".

We are commissioning a programme of research that will help us to profile the skills gaps of careers coordinators in schools which will, in due course lead to the development of new training provision. And we are working with the Children's Workforce Expert Group to develop a long-term strategy for the whole children's work force. Future support and development for those providing IAG services will sit within the context of that long-term strategy.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 June 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Commonwealth Games 2014: Marketing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding has been allocated to promote the Glasgow Commonwealth Games to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas tourists. [209815]

Margaret Hodge: There are no funds allocated by DCMS to promote the Glasgow Commonwealth Games to domestic and overseas tourists.

Culture: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was awarded in grants by *(a)* English Heritage, *(b)* the Museums and Libraries Association, *(c)* the Arts Council, *(d)* Sport England, *(e)* UK Sport, *(f)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(g)* the UK Film Council in each year since 1997-98; and what proportion of each was from (i) National Lottery Distribution Fund income and (ii) Exchequer funding. [208309]

Margaret Hodge: Figures for the amount awarded in grants in each year since 1997-98, and the proportions that were funded out of national lottery and Exchequer income, as provided by the bodies in question, are set out in the tables. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

(a) English Heritage

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	36,500,000	0	100
1998-99	35,500,000	0	100
1999-2000	35,100,000	0	100
2000-01[1]	34,200,000	0	100
2001-02	33,700,000	0	100
2002-03[1]	34,000,000	0	100
2003-04[1]	32,200,000	0	100
2004-05[1]	31,100,000	0	100
2005-06[1]	32,300,000	0	100
2006-07[1]	31,000,000	0	100
2007-08[1]	[2]	0	100

[1] Does not include approximately £4 million each year of Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund which English Heritage disburses on behalf of DEFRA.

[2] Audited figure for 2007-08 not yet available.

Notes:

1. Figures relate to actual spend per year and not to offers made.
2. Grant expenditure has remained around the £30 million mark because English Heritage's Grant-in-Aid allocation, the money it receives from Government to carry out its work, has not kept pace with inflation.
3. Inflation has also had a negative effect on the buying power of English Heritage's grants. The construction industry has its own calculator of inflation; using this, English Heritage's grants over the last seven years have lost out by a cumulative £64 million in buying power.
4. English Heritage disburses its grants through seven main grant schemes: Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscape scheme, Partnership schemes in Conservation Areas, Cathedral repairs, Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England scheme, Historic Environment Enabling programme, Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and others including War Memorial grants, Capacity Building programmes for the voluntary sector and various grants for local authorities.

(b) Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—
2000-01	12,376,520	0	100
2001-02	19,590,125	0	100
2002-03	[1]20,318,000	0	100
2003-04	[2]23,861,000	3	97
2004-05	[3]34,633,000	5	95
2005-06	[4]41,380,000	4	96
2006-07	[5]42,128,000	0	100
2007-08	54,933,000	1	99

[1] Includes £30,000 from New Opportunities Fund

[2] Includes £601,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund and £12,000 from NOF

[3] Includes £783,000 from HLF and £992,000 from NOF

[4] Includes £1,070,000 from HLF and £519,000 from NOF

[5] Includes £336,727 from Big Lottery Fund.

Note:

1. MLA is not a lottery distributor, but has acted on behalf of the sector to draw down lottery funding for programmes and projects. This funding has then been passed on as grants to the sector.

(c) Arts Council England

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	638,449,000	71	29
1998-99	246,218,000	24	77
1999-2000	396,520,000	46	54
2000-01	364,237,000	36	64
2001-02	402,240,000	41	59
2002-03	381,785,000	32	68
2003-04	445,227,000	38	62
2004-05	505,981,000	38	62
2005-06	563,329,000	37	63
2006-07	516,321,000	27	73
2007-08	[1]		

[1] Not yet available.

Note:

1. 2007-08 figures are currently being audited as part of Arts Council England's year-end accounts preparations and will be laid before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

(d) Sport England

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	208,322,000	91	9
1998-99	337,743,000	95	5
1999-2000	166,560,000	87	13
2000-01	350,711,000	93	7
2001-02	500,632,000	94	6
2002-03	302,021,000	79	21
2003-04	180,548,000	89	11
2004-05	237,487,000	79	21
2005-06	215,141,000	73	27
2006-07	216,910,000	58	42
2007-08	198,488,000	55	45

(e) UK Sport

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	5,745,000	0	100
1998-99	6,233,000	0	100
1999-2000	24,669,000	77	23
2000-01	32,432,000	81	19

(e) UK Sport

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
2001-02	29,328,000	80	20
2002-03	30,108,000	78	22
2003-04	32,630,000	57	43
2004-05	34,268,000	46	54
2005-06	34,503,000	51	49
2006-07	80,090,000	56	44
2007-08	99,296,000	47	53

Notes:

1. 1999-2000 was UK Sport's first year as a national lottery distributor, with UK Sport receiving 1.53 per cent. of proceeds, worth over £20 million per year.
2. 2006-07 saw both the transfer of responsibilities from Sport England (including a share of NLDF proceeds up to 3.8 per cent., worth about £50 million per year) and the start of additional Treasury funding to develop an enlarged team for the 2012 Olympic games.
3. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet finalized.

(f) Heritage Lottery Fund

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98	346,383,524	100	0
1998-99	347,729,046	100	0
1999-2000	281,122,789	100	0
2000-01	338,776,889	100	0
2001-02	306,376,778	100	0
2002-03	330,049,147	100	0
2003-04	315,552,714	100	0
2004-05	362,748,095	100	0
2005-06	317,743,486	100	0
2006-07	314,351,438	100	0
2007-08	276,696,170	100	0

(g) UK Film Council

	Amount awarded in grants (£)	*Proportion from lottery (Percentage)*	*Proportion from Exchequer (Percentage)*
1997-98			
1998-99			
1999-2000	2,442,000	100	
2000-01	35,210,000	46	54
2001-02	39,101,000	49	51
2002-03	48,780,000	55	45
2003-04	51,782,000	57	43
2004-05	75,593,000	67	33
2005-06	69,966,000	60	40
2006-07	64,829,000	58	42
2007-08	51,345,000	51	49

Notes:

1. UK Film Council was only incorporated in July 1999. In 1999-2000, operations were limited, with only a small number of lottery awards being made. The organization became fully operational as a grant-in-aid and lottery distributor on 1 April 2000.
2. For lottery awards, figures are shown according to the date when the grant was decided/awarded, and not necessarily the date at which funding was paid out. This is consistent with UK Film Council reporting arrangements and with information published in its annual reports.
3. All amounts are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
4. All figures 1999-2007 are extracted from UK FC audited annual report and accounts. Those for 2007-08 are draft, awaiting audit sign off in July 2008.
5. Fluctuations in levels of lottery awards are due to several factors including the launching of funding streams, and in some cases awards covering a period in excess of one year (e.g. in 2003-04, a three-year delegation of £6,500,000 per annum to Skillset was made—resulting in a soft commitment being recorded of £18,500,000 in that year). Core grant-in-aid activities have remained reasonably constant across the period with the main fluctuations relating to one-off additional funding received and allocated, e.g. the re-development of the bfi Southbank.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208383]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: (a) in year special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations, and (b) end of year performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year.

The table of results sets out awarded performance related bonus results during the 2006-07 financial year—split into the categories requested.

	(a) Male		*(b) Female*		*(c) Ethnic minority (declared)*		*(d) Disabled (declared)*		*(e) Not-heterosexual (declared)*
	No. of staff		*No. of staff*		*No. of staff*		*No. of staff*		*No. of staff*
In year special bonuses(all grades including SCS)	56	46	65	54	12	10	[1]		[1]
End of year performance bonuses (grades A(U)-D)	90	45	111	55	29	15	6	3	
End of year performance bonuses (SCS only)	20	71	8	29	[1]		0	0	

[1] We are unable to give exact numbers where there are 5 or less responses from staff as this could breach staff confidentiality.

Notes:

1. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport only started monitoring on sexual orientation at the end of 2006. It will take approximately five years to build up any meaningful data.
2. The information provided relates to the Department only and does not include the Department's non-departmental public bodies or the Royal Parks Executive Agency.
3. The end of year performance bonus for senior civil servants is dealt with at a separate time to other grades, and the information has therefore been presented to reflect this.
4. We are unable to give exact numbers where there are five or less responses from staff as this could breach staff confidentiality.
5. For reference—there are four grades below the Senior civil service, which broadly equate to former civil service grades as follows:

Grade A(U)—former grade 6
Grade A—former grades 6/7
Grade B—former SEO/HEO/HEO(D) and equivalent grades
Grade C—former EO and equivalent grades
Grade D—former AO/AA and equivalent grades.

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what programmes of research are in place to establish the number of under-age gamblers in the UK. [209670]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Lottery Commission's ongoing research programme includes regular tracking surveys of 12 to 15-year-olds to monitor underage play of the national lottery. This research includes information on underage participation in other gambling activities.

The research is published in the underage research section of the National Lottery Commission's website:

http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/UploadDocs/Contents/Documents/Under%2016s%20and%20the%20National%20Lottery_Final%20report.pdf

The Gambling Commission has also commissioned a literature review on children and gambling which is due to be published in the summer.

National Heritage Memorial Fund: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. [209404]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The National Heritage Memorial Fund (which administers the Heritage Lottery Fund) has advised that it employs 258 permanent staff, some of whom work part-time.

National Lottery: Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applications for Lottery funding from military and naval charities there were in each year since 1997; [208917]

(2) what the amount was of Lottery funding *(a)* applied for by and *(b)* granted to military and naval charities in each year since 1997. [208918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Big Lottery Fund has supplied DCMS with the following information:

Applications from and awards to military and naval charities

Decision in year ending 31 March	*Applications*	*Awards*	*Requested (£)*	*Awarded (£)*
1997	55	6	3,877,585	171,293
1998	57	12	3,672,892	22,477
1999	70	27	2,099,757	155,949
2000	133	53	1,583,599	363,698
2001	121	52	2,099,656	145,042
2002	84	48	2,052,060	205,710
2003	131	65	699,679	235,841
2004	154	112	1,232,810	522,892
2005	479	433	2,331,059	2,767,893
2006	722	640	3,479,621	2,828,672
2007	181	107	1,121,144	557,411
2008	148	70	2,364,196	397,343

In addition, the Heroes Return programme made a number of grants to individual veterans rather than to charities:

Decision in year ending 31 March	*Applications*	*Awards*	*Requested (£)*	*Awarded (£)*
2005	8,803	8,667	[1]	8,193,613
2006	5,293	5,167	[1]	5,956,699
2007	2	2	[1]	2,975

[1] No meaningful data

These data were created using a comprehensive relevant word search from the Big Lottery Fund's database as there is not a field that breaks grants down using this categorisation. For this reason a small number of grants to military and naval charities may not have been included. Conversely there may be grants included that have been delivered to related applicants such as Royal British Legion Social Clubs.

This data include Awards For All and Home Front Recall Grants.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has also awarded lottery grants to military and naval charities, but is unable to supply this detailed information within the time allowed. I will write to the hon. Member for Westbury with this additional information and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

Visit Britain

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the review of Visit Britain to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [209675]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1375W.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 922W, on departmental pay, how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their 2006-07 appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority and *(d)* disabled; and if he will make a statement. [210133]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales Office staff are on two separate pay and performance systems. Those staff on Welsh Assembly government terms do not receive performance-related bonuses.

The remaining staff are on the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) system. This is a pay system that recognises good performance by its employees. Performance is assessed under the common Performance management system. For employees whose performance is rated as 'Exceeded' a small bonus is paid along with the annual pay increase. Those who achieve "Succeeded" receive the normal pay increase and those with a 'Not met' marking received no award.

For the 2006-07 reporting year, there were 28 staff on the MoJ reporting system. Of these, five received a small bonus in addition to the annual pay increase (three male; two female).

In line with Cabinet Office guidance, the Wales Office does not publish information about disabilities for reasons of privacy. For the same reason I am unable to provide figures for bonuses paid to those staff from an ethnic minority.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department's green transport plan was introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of this plan. [209237]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department is currently producing a sustainable development action plan (SDAP), which will include a green transport plan, but it is yet to be finalised.

The Wales Office is a small Department associated with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for services. Plans for green transport will be compiled by MOJ and include the Wales Office. We plan to place our part of the plan, when completed later this year, on our website

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

Staff are already encouraged to use videoconference equipment for meetings between our two sites to negate the need for travel.

We offset our carbon footprint from travel through PURE, the clean planet trust, a DEFRA recommended company. We are signing up to the DEFRA Government Departments, controlled offsetting site.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games have been awarded to companies in the boroughs of *(a)* Greenwich, *(b)* Hackney, *(c)* Newham, *(d)* Tower Hamlets, *(e)* Waltham Forest and *(f)* London as a whole. [210247]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority has awarded 83 contracts to businesses in the five Olympic host boroughs. The contracts awarded by borough breakdown as follows:

	Contracts
Greenwich	10
Hackney	12
Newham	21
Tower Hamlets	34
Waltham Forest	6

The Olympic Delivery Authority has awarded over 650 contracts to date, of these 365 are to businesses registered in London.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts for the London 2012 Olympic Games have been made; and what proportion this represents of the total number of contracts currently available for tender. [210249]

Tessa Jowell: I am awaiting the latest data from the Olympic Delivery Authority and will provide the information as soon as it is available.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games have been awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Scotland. [210248]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority has awarded contracts to over 650 suppliers. The national breakdown showing micro to medium-sized businesses is as follows:

	Contracts
England	
Medium	118
Small	97
Micro	173
Wales	
Medium	0
Small	0
Micro	2
NI	
Scotland	
Medium	0
Small	1
Micro	3

[1] One business registered in Northern [illegible] has supplied the ODA to date, and this is categorised as a large business

Many of the opportunities for small and medium-sized business will exist in the London 2012 supply chains. In addition to establishing the London 2012 Business Network, which gives businesses across the country access to opportunities in the supply chains, over the last year the ODA has visited each of the UK's nations and regions to raise awareness of the business opportunities generated by the 2012 Games.

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many and what proportion of units of accommodation in the athletes' village will be used for affordable housing after the 2012 Olympics. [209705]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: By 2012, up to 3,500 residential units will have been built for use as athletes' accommodation in the Olympic Village. Following the Games, the Olympic Village will become a high quality, sustainable community. The athletes' accommodation will be converted into residential homes and be supplemented by additional residential housing, the full details of which are still being developed. The residential housing will be complemented by public spaces, health and education facilities, and much improved transport links.

30 per cent. of residential units in legacy will be affordable housing for sale and rent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Domestic Violence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offences of domestic abuse were committed in *(a)* A District Command Unit area, *(b)* B District Command Unit area and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex of the victim; and how many of these were repeat offences in each year. [207754]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows recorded crimes with a domestic motivation broken down by age over 17 years and age under 17 years and by gender for (i) A district Command and (ii) B District Command. Due to a change in systems, comparable statistics are available only from 2004-05. Information on the number of repeat offences is not available.

Recorded crimes with a domestic motivation: gender and age of victims, a and b districts and Northern Ireland 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Females 17 and over	Males 17 and over	Children under 17	Gender/age unknown[1]	Total Offences
A District					
2004-05	863	204	56	29	1,152
2005-06	927	230	61	209	1,427
2006-07	795	231	65	157	1,248
2007-08	863	237	59	193	1,352
B District					
2004-05	501	176	33	12	722
2005-06	582	211	41	160	994
2006-07	578	211	42	91	922
2007-08	533	189	37	100	859
Northern Ireland					
2004-05	6,005	1,851	488	164	8,508
2005-06	6,463	2,122	539	1,644	10,768
2006-07	6,218	2,057	572	1,268	10,115
2007-08	5,621	1,773	562	1,327	9,283

[1] Gender/age unknown figures include the offence of breach of non molestation order from 2005-06 onwards. Breaches of non molestation orders have been counted as offences in Northern Ireland under the Home Office Counting Rules from 1 April 2005.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of domestic abuse offences in Northern Ireland occurred during the Christmas/New Year period in each of the last 10 years. [207757]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows incident and crime figures by year, number over Christmas period, and Christmas period as a percentage of the complete year. Due to a change in systems, comparable statistics are available only from 2004-05.

	Number for complete year	Number for period 24 December to 1 January	24 December to 1 January as percentage of complete year
Domestic incidents			
2004-05	20,959	810	3.9
2005-06	23,059	808	3.5
2006-07	23,456	864	3.7
2007-08	23,076	832	3.6
Domestic crimes			
2004-05	8,508	347	4.1
2005-06	10,768	370	3.4
2006-07	10,115	333	3.3
2007-08	9,283	310	3.3

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many domestic abuse offences were committed by ex-partners of victims in *(a)* A District Command Unit area, *(b)* B District Command Unit area and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [207758]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that it is not possible to provide figures for domestic abuse offences committed by ex-partners of victims.

Firearms: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many burglaries and robberies in Belfast North constituency involved the use of firearms in each of the last five years; [207676]

(2) how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in Belfast North constituency by the use of firearms in the last five years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. [207677]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

Statistics are captured on the basis of police districts and areas, and therefore the information requested is not readily available.

The Chief Constable will write to the hon. Member to provide answers in due course, and the letters will be placed in the House Library.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Driving Under Influence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many serving members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland were convicted of drink-driving offences in each of the last 10 years. [207744]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of serving members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland who have been convicted for drink driving and related offences in each of the last 10 years.

	Number of officers convicted
1998	9
1999	14
2000	14

	Number of officers convicted
2001	10
2002	14
2003	14
2004	12
2005	9
2006	22
2007	7

Ministers and the PSNI take this issue very seriously, and an officer convicted by a court of a drink driving offence can expect to face a formal disciplinary hearing. This hearing can result in dismissal or a requirement to resign. A discipline panel will always treat each case on its own merits but officers presiding at such hearings must apply their judgement to the facts of the case to consider whether an alternative sanction could be justified.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what effect the dismissal of a police service trainee from one community for *(a)* misconduct and *(b)* illegal activity has on the complement of trainees from another community under the policies established for recruitment to the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [207430]

Paul Goggins: The temporary 50:50 arrangements, as set out in section 46(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, apply only to recruitment. Once an appointed candidate has entered training they no-longer apply. The dismissal of a trainee from one community, for whatever the reason, has no effect on the complement of trainees from another community.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the risk posed by Republican terrorist groups. [207741]

Paul Goggins: The 18th IMC Report published on 1 May highlighted that, while they have no support across the wider community, dissident republican groups still pose a threat to the security situation and remain intent on doing what they can to destabilise the political institutions. Recent events have underlined this assessment.

I have every confidence in the PSNI's ability to deal with dissident republicans; the PSNI, intelligence agencies and the Gardai are to be commended for their recent successful operations against these dissident groups.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Property

Ms Buck: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what provision was made upon the sale of the Church Commission properties in Westminster, Lambeth and Southwark to prevent open market property sales and market rentals. [210020]

Sir Stuart Bell: The sale of these residential properties by the Church Commissioners, a private charitable landlord, to a partnership between Grainger plc, a leading publically listed residential investor and Genesis, one of the country's largest housing associations, did not seek to prevent the new owners from undertaking open market property sales or achieving open market rentals where appropriate. These rights were available to the Commissioners who operated a policy of mixed rental levels during their ownership, and to have sought to exclude them from a sale would have significantly reduced the price achieved, and breached the Commissioners' legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent representations the Electoral Commission has received on the provision of services in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210535]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it was notified by the Welsh Assembly Government on 18 April 2008 that it will be included in a tranche of bodies required by the end of August 2008 to prepare Welsh Language Schemes under the Welsh Language Act 1993.

The Electoral Commission has since 1 March 2004 had a voluntary Welsh Language Scheme in place which aims to ensure that Welsh and English speaking stakeholders have access to a consistent service in their preferred language. The Commission is working to ensure that the transition from a voluntary to statutory scheme is achieved effectively.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in delivering Mastiff vehicles to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [209576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Good progress is being made with the next tranche of Mastiff vehicles and their delivery to theatre will begin later this year.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Trojan and *(b)* Terrier vehicles are deployed in Helmand province; and what their role is. [209614]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Trojan or Terrier armoured engineering vehicles currently deployed to Helmand province.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what force protection measures are in place at Kandahar airbase; and who is responsible for force protection measures at Kandahar airbase. [209646]

Des Browne: Force protection measures at Kandahar airfield employ multiple layers of defence, including protective equipment and infrastructure, operations to disrupt attacks against the base together with tactics, techniques and procedures designed to minimise the chance of a successful attack. I am withholding further details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers: Military Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has made of the merits of using Rafale aircraft for the planned aircraft carriers. [209583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1356W, to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames).

Aircraft Carriers: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of converting the design of the two future aircraft carriers to nuclear power. [209342]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Nuclear power was one of the options considered during the concept phase of the future aircraft carrier project but it was discounted primarily for reasons of cost, of both the ships themselves and the infrastructure required.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much manpower will be required for the *(a)* operation, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* training use of the 2000 provisionally proposed Piranha V vehicles; and which sections of the Army will use the vehicles. [208675]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The manpower that will be needed to operate, maintain and train for the FRES utility vehicle fleet will be determined by the number of vehicles that we buy and that number has yet to be fixed. The overall planning figures suggest that FRES will provide fleet of over 3,000 vehicles and that the utility vehicle will make up just over half the total fleet; however, precise fleet requirements for each FRES family are subject to change as the requirement matures and will not be confirmed until the main investment decisions are taken. It would therefore be premature to provide any further detail on manpower figures at this stage.

The utility vehicle family will be deployed in a range of battlefield roles. The protected mobility roles will be deployed principally in the infantry battalions that will be a central component of the mechanised brigades. The remaining utility roles will be deployed in a range of units across the medium and heavy forces.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost per vehicle is of each design role category of the Piranha V vehicle; [208676]

(2) what the cost per vehicle is of the applique armour for each Piranha V vehicle; [208677]

(3) what the projected in-service date for the future rapid effect system utility vehicle is. [208679]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Piranha 5 is the provisionally preferred utility vehicle design at this stage. The cost per vehicle of each of the FRES utility vehicle, any costs associated with fitting additional armour protection and the planned in-service date will be fixed at the main investment decision.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured heavy wheeled tractors have been purchased by his Department; and at what cost. [208680]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department procured 25 armoured heavy wheeled tractors between 1999 and 2000. The procurement cost is estimated to have been approximately £7.5 million.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured heavy wheeled tractors have been disposed of by his Department; to whom; and at what cost. [208681]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The full complement of 25 armoured heavy wheeled tractors was transferred to the Amey Lex Consortium (ALC) in 2005. ALC was contracted, under a private finance initiative (PFI) to provide 16 serviceable vehicles to meet the total fleet requirement, on the basis that the PFI would provide increased availability. As a result nine of the vehicles became the property of ALC for disposal.

In terms of cost, the inventory transfer agreement for the C vehicle contract was worth £40 million and the armoured heavy wheeled tractors formed part of this arrangement. By transferring rather than selling the inventory, MOD was able to secure a reduced daily hire rate over the duration of the contract (2005-20). Additionally, the Department receives a gain share from the sale of any legacy assets (vehicles and spares), which to date amounts to approximately £1 million and is likely to be significantly more through the life of the programme.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the armoured heavy wheeled tractors offered to the Amey Lex Consortium were part of the C category vehicle inventory. [208682]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes, in 2005 a range of equipments, historically classed as C vehicles, engineer construction plant equipment, mechanical handling equipment and cranes were transferred to the C vehicle PFI project with the Amey Lex Consortium (now ALC Ltd).

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the present C category vehicle contract between his Department and Amey Lex Consortium (ALC) permits his Department to require ALC to acquire specific types of vehicles; and whether under any circumstances ALC can refuse to accept C category vehicle types in the possession of the Army onto its inventory. [208683]

C

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The C vehicle PFI contract requires the contractor to deliver a specified list of 144 capabilities. The requirements are mainly output based but in some cases, due to the nature of the task, allude to a particular type of vehicle.

The C vehicle PFI project has been delivering full service for two years, all contractual obligations regarding the transfer of eligible army equipment are concluded. Where a new capability short fall is identified an investment appraisal will be conducted and should the C vehicle PFI be the best value for money mechanism for its delivery, this will be subject to the negotiation of a contract amendment.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provisions exist for his Department to acquire and maintain C category vehicles outside the scope of the contract with Amey Lex Consortium. [208684]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The C vehicle PFI contract, with ALC Ltd. is exclusive only to those equipment capabilities stated within the contract and within the numbers therein. Where the Department require additional capability by either type or number, the provision of that capability is subject to normal investment appraisal procedures and may be provided either within the PFI, through a contract amendment, or separately through conventional procurement.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British Army FV430s *(a)* are to receive and *(b)* have been fitted with (i) a new engine and drive train, (ii) a package of armour, (iii) a remotely-operated machine gun and (iv) other improvements; how many have been made available to troops deployed on operations; and if he will make a statement. [208733]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The conversion programme of FV430s involves 900 vehicles. 532 of these have been fitted with a new engine and drive train, a large number have been up-armoured and some have been fitted with a remotely operated machine gun. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces. Likewise, I am withholding the number of FV430s available to troops deployed on operations.

Other improvements include air-conditioning, thermal blanket, wirecutter, enhanced electronic counter measures, protected weapon station, drivers night vision system, vehicle integrated personal role radio, new drivers hatch and other armour improvements. The ambulance variant has been fitted with a coolbox (for medical supplies) and a thermal imaging reversing camera.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the planned in-service dates for the Future Rapid Effects System. [209730]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In common with all defence equipment programmes, the in-service dates for the future rapid effect system family of armoured vehicles will be fixed at the main investment decisions. It is our policy not to release or discuss in-service dates ahead of the main investment decision.

AWE Burghfield

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2138W, on AWE Burghfield, in what way the emergency arrangements infrastructure at AWE Burghfield was affected by the July 2007 flooding; and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation. [208892]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a consequence of the flooding in July 2007, the fallback incident control room, fallback medical centre and health physics support areas at AWE Burghfield sustained some damage. Contingency arrangements were put in place to ensure full emergency response could be activated if required. These were considered by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) to be adequate at all times for the activities being undertaken. On 22 April 2008, AWE Burghfield undertook its annual exercise on emergency response arrangements, witnessed by the NII, who considered that the exercise adequately demonstrated AWE Burghfield's capability in this area.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 178W, on AWE Burgh[illegible], how many of the safety shortfalls identified at AWE Burghfield by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate remain outstanding; and what the target date is for remedial work to be completed. [208894]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The safety case issues to which the hon. Member refers were identified not by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, but by AWE plc in its own Periodic Review of Safety. In my answer on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1132W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock), I indicated that 50 work packages were due for completion by 31 March 2008 and that the remaining 53 were scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. The 50 work packages were completed by the due date. The remainder remain on course for completion, as planned.

Bombs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to destroy the UK's stock of cluster munitions; what the estimated costs of so doing is; and if he will make a statement. [210147]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We will dispose of UK cluster munition stockpiles in accordance with the provisions in the adopted convention. We are assessing the likely costs of disposal and these will be made available to the House as soon as they are known.

Finmeccanica

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date Sir Kevin Tebbit joined the board of Finmeccanica UK. [209601]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: That is a matter for Finmeccanica.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the planned in-service dates for the Joint Strike Fighter. [209731]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support in the other place on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column WA8. We will not be setting in-service dates for the joint combat aircraft (JCA) until we take the main investment decision, and we will take that decision when the project is sufficiently mature. The joint strike fighter remains our preferred solution to meet the JCA requirement and our current plans for JCA remain coherent with the CVF programme.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ukrainian helicopters are being used by UK forces in current operations; and where they are being used. [209584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not own, nor has it contracted for, any Ukrainian helicopters for use by UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Snatch Land Rovers are deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [209615]

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of *(a)* CRVT, *(b)* Saxon, *(c)* Warrior and *(d)* Challenger vehicles are in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; [209574]

(2) how many Mastiffs are in theatre in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [209575]

(3) how many Challenger tanks have been used in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and what percentage this represents of all tanks used. [209577]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Challenger 2 tanks deployed to Afghanistan and similarly there are no CVRT or Saxon vehicles deployed to Iraq.

I am withholding the rest of the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Peacekeeping Operations: Manpower

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are serving in United Nations or other peacekeeping forces; and in which countries they are serving. [208461]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 26 May 2008 there were 300 UK service personnel deployed on UN operations, 280 of whom were located in Cyprus. Other locations include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 26 May 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	15,120
Of which	
Afghanistan	8,200
Iraq	4,500
Kuwait[2]	900
Qatar	420
Kosovo	130
Cyprus	290
Oman	260
At sea	80
Bahrain	80
Bosnia	10
Other	25

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

[2] Figures for Kuwait are artificially high due to a current Operation Telic Relief In Place (RIP) operation.

UK forces are currently deployed on a wide range of missions, under differing mandates, in a number of countries across the world including those conducted under the auspices of the UN, EU and NATO. The number of UK service personnel serving in these countries is detailed above. The majority of these missions comprise, to one degree or another, activity that could be fairly described as peacekeeping.

Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of Ministry of Defence property sold in Scotland was in the last *(a)* year, *(b)* five years, *(c)* 10 years and *(d)* 20 years. [209726]

Derek Twigg: Disposal receipts arising from Ministry of Defence property sales in Scotland since 2000-01 total £124.6 million. This includes £23.6 million in 2007-08 (subject to final audit) and £77.4 million for property sold over the last five financial years. Figures for the years before 2000-01 are not available.

Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the detailed concept design stage of the Vanguard successor submarines; and if he will make a statement. [210085]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the parliamentary vote in support of the Government's decisions on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent on 14 March 2007, a collaborative MOD/industry team was formed to take work forward. The team is halfway through the concept phase of the programme, and is working to develop the information and realistic options needed to deliver a robust Initial Gate Business Case in late 2009.

TRANSPORT

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1417W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at her Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three years; and what proportion of total expenditure this represented. [209019]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain this data for the Department (including seven executive agencies) would incur disproportionate cost.

However, it has been estimated that at our main London HQ building the total annual value of Fairtrade purchases is £13,608 and this represents approximately 5 per cent. of total expenditure.

The value of Fairtrade produce purchased by the Vehicle Certification Agency during the six months it has been purchasing Fairtrade products is £1,340.

Purchases undertaken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Driving Standards Agency, Highways Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are not separately recorded.

Lorries: Excise Duties

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicles entered the UK from the EU in each of the last three years; and what taxes were imposed per lorry in road tax and other charges. [209892]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department collects and publishes data on the numbers of heavy goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by vehicle nationality. A breakdown of the data for the last three years is provided in the following table, representing outwards journeys only. Inwards journeys are not collected.

The equivalent data for vehicles travelling to the Republic of Ireland by ferry and across the Irish land boundary are not available.

Powered road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by country of registration

Thousand vehicles

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
UK	418	406	400
EU[1]	1,407	1,473	1,623
Non-EU[2]	106	134	96
Unknown	10	9	11
Total	1,941	2,021	2,129

[1] For 2005 and 2006, does not include Bulgaria and Romania

[2] For 2005 and 2006, includes Bulgaria and Romania

EU law is clear that member state policy measures may not inhibit the freedom of movement of goods and may not discriminate (directly or indirectly) according to nationality of haulier or the origin or destination of a vehicle. This of itself precludes any lump-sum tax levied specifically on entry to the UK.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the *(a)* 50 mile per hour speed limit around the roadworks north of junction 6 on the M1 motorway and *(b)* 40 mile per hour speed limit at the roadworks on the M40 in the vicinity of junction 1; and if she will make a statement. [210204]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 50 mph speed limit on the M1 north of junction 6 is in place for the duration of the widening works between Junctions 6a and 10, to ensure the safety of roadworkers and road users. The 50 mph speed limit starts at Junction 6 for traffic to flow into the contraflow and safely past the works area.

The 40 mph speed limit is from Swakeleys roundabout on the A40 to M40 J1 at the Denham roundabout, while strengthening and parapet replacement work is being carried out on the Denham Viaduct.

The 40 mph speed limit is in place for the safety of roadworkers and road users, particularly cyclists who could use the narrow lanes during the works on the A40.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will issue guidance to the Highways Agency on operating a consistent policy towards speed limits on motorways when roadworks are taking place in different areas. [210205]

Mr. Tom Harris: National advice on setting temporary speed limits is given in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8, which is developed by the Highways Agency on behalf of the Department for Transport. This identifies appropriate speed limits based on the relative risk to road users. The Highways Agency produced additional advice in July 2007 (Chief Highways Engineer Memo 203/07) on how to apply temporary speed limits at road works using the risk based approach in Chapter 8.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the 50 mile per hour speed limit remaining in force on the southbound carriageway north of junction 9 of the M1 motorway after the opening of four carriageways to traffic. [210206]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 50 mph speed restriction remains in place for the following reasons.

There are still elements of work to be completed, which may impact on the safety of the travelling public. This mainly involves work to the safety fencing.

Once the safety fence work has been completed, there will still be a safety concern for both the work force and the travelling public. This is because if the 50 mph speed limit is removed, it will mean that four lanes of traffic travelling at 70 mph will be merging into a 50 mph three lane section, where work is still continuing. This could result in an increase in incidents and cause further delays.

However, with consultation with the police force, once all safety works are complete on this section, the 50 mph section will be moved to just south of junction 10. This will return as much carriageway as possible to

70 mph, while still maintaining as safe an environment as possible for traffic entering the 50 mph works section.

Parking: Enforcement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the applicability of parking regulations to parking enforcement vehicles. [209524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for the traffic authority to consider the nature of the parking restriction at any particular place and include, in the associated Traffic Regulation Order, any exceptions or exemptions that would allow enforcement vehicles to park.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of councils using CCTV cars for the enforcement of parking restrictions. [209525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Traffic authorities wishing to use CCTV equipment for civil parking enforcement must obtain certification for the equipment from the Secretary of State. This option has only been available to authorities outside London since new legislation under the Traffic Management Act 2004 came into force on 31 March 2008. One authority, Medway council, has since applied for, and been granted, such certification. London traffic authorities have had local powers to enforce parking with cameras since 2000 and have until 30 March 2009 to obtain certification under the new TMA legislation. We do not have records of systems used by the London authorities.

Railway Stations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations there are on the national rail network; how many stations on the national rail network are wholly unstaffed; and how many stations on the national rail network are staffed from the beginning to the end of traffic. [210123]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are currently 2,515 stations owned by Network Rail on the national rail network. Information about staffing levels at these stations is a matter either for Network Rail at its managed stations or for the relevant train operating company at the franchised stations.

Railways: Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether her Department and its agencies compensate the operators of rail replacement bus services in the event of *(a)* planned and *(b)* emergency rail closures; [209274]

(2) what role is played by Network Rail in the administration and funding of rail replacement bus services; [209275]

(3) what proportion of the cost of deployment of rail replacement bus services is met by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* Network Rail and *(c)* train operating companies. [209276]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not have any role in the specifying, tendering and funding of bus-operated rail replacement rail services. Train operators are responsible for securing alternatives for rail services, should it not be possible to operate the specified rail service in full.

Rail replacement bus services are funded by train operators, who receive compensation from Network Rail for these and other expenses incurred (such as lost farebox revenue or staff costs) as a result of disruption to normal scheduled services caused by engineering works. The arrangements for compensation are specified within train operators' track access agreements with Network Rail.

Railways: Fares

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London, *(b)* Transport for London and *(c)* train operating companies to establish and extend the use of Oyster pre-pay on London's train networks. [209062]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In May 2006 the Secretary of State and Mayor of London announced that they intended to enable mainline railway stations in London to accept Oyster 'Pay As You Go', and to make the Oyster network in London accept ITSO smart cards.

Regular discussions, including commercial and contractual negotiations, are taking place between the Department, Transport for London and train operating companies on its implementation.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations she has had with train operating companies on the provision of e-ticketing on the UK rail network. [209063]

Mr. Tom Harris: The introduction of ITSO smartcards has been mandated in the most recently let rail franchises. The Department is also discussing with the Association of Train Operating Companies other aspects of modern ticket retailing as set out in last year's White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway'.

The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster 'Pay as You Go' at London train stations and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment. Commercial and contractual negotiations are taking place.

Railways: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many overground train stations in Greater London have been re-zoned in the last 20 years; and if she will make a statement. [209915]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since 2005, when the Secretary of State became responsible for approving changes to the zonal map, the following stations have been re-zoned.

Station	*Current zone*	*Proposed to move to zone*
Epsom	Outboundary	Zone 6
Ewell East	Outboundary	Zone 6
Ewell West	Outboundary	Zone 6
Stoneleigh	Zone 6	Zone 5
Purfleet	Outboundary	Zone 6
Roding Valley	Zone 5	Zone 4
Chigwell	Zone 5	Zone 4
Grange Hill	Zone 5	Zone 4
Hainault	Zone 5	Zone 4
Fairlop	Zone 5	Zone 4
Barkingside	Zone 5	Zone 4
Hampstead Heath	Zone 3	Zone 2
Acton Central	Zone 2	Zone 3
Willesden Junction	Zone 3	Zone 2/3 boundary
Banstead	Outboundary	Zone 6
Caterham	Outboundary	Zone 6
Chipstead	Outboundary	Zone 6
Epsom Downs	Outboundary	Zone 6
Kingswood	Outboundary	Zone 6
Tadworth	Outboundary	Zone 6
Tattenham Corner	Outboundary	Zone 6
Upper Warlingham	Outboundary	Zone 6
Whyteleafe	Outboundary	Zone 6
Whyteleafe South	Outboundary	Zone 6

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the new carriages announced in the High Level Output Statement have been ordered. [208359]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 June 2008]*: 317 vehicles have been ordered from manufacturers. The first is due for delivery in October 2008.

Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many expressions of interest she has received in supplying a fleet of trains under the InterCity Express Programme; and from which organisations such expressions have been received. [209253]

Mr. Tom Harris: Tenders for the InterCity Express programme are scheduled to be received on 30 June 2008 from two short-listed bidders, namely Express Rail Alliance (comprising Siemens, Bombardier, Angel Trains and Babcock and Brown) and Hitachi Europe.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects a new fleet of trains supplied under the InterCity Express Programme to be fully operational; and on which routes she expects such trains to operate. [209254]

Mr. Tom Harris: The first pre-series trains are scheduled to be tested in 2013, with the first fleet deployed into passenger service on the East Coast Main Line from 2015. Bidders are also tendering proposals for the Great Western Main Line, plus options for further deployment on west coast and cross-country routes.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the deadline for receipt of tenders to build trains under the InterCity Express Programme was extended. [209327]

Mr. Tom Harris: The original deadline for receipt of tenders was put back, at the request of both bidders, to allow them more time to complete their submissions. Robust bids are expected from both consortia on 30 June. The new deadline is not expected to have any effect on timescales for deployment of the new trains.

West Coast Railway Line: Fares

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the recent West Coast Mainline fare increases on the Holyhead to Euston route; and if she will make a statement. [209838]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The Department for Transport has received a small number of letters and phone calls from members of the public and MPs on the subject.

Virgin Trains have introduced a time restriction on the outward portion of the standard saver return fare on this route. This is not a fares increase, but a restriction on the time of day that the fare can be used. The rules around saver fares permit the restriction of the time of travel so long as it is valid for outward travel after 10.30 am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. Virgin Trains are operating within the permitted rules.

It is worth noting that Virgin Trains do offer a range of advance purchase fares that can be used on these earlier services as a cheaper alternative to the standard open return fare. These fares are train specific, priced on a single leg basis and are quota controlled.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Shows: South West

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure that agricultural shows in Devon and Cornwall are not affected by changes in the rules related to bluetongue restrictions. [209483]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: We are currently in the process of rolling out a bluetongue vaccination programme across England. This means that as batches of vaccine are delivered, the protection zone is being steadily expanded to allow more counties to vaccinate their livestock.

We are aware of the effect this has on different areas of the farming industry, and are in regular contact with the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO) with regard to the large agricultural shows that may be affected by zone changes.

On the condition that additional vaccine would become available and the overall disease situation in England would not change, we had planned to expand the protection zone into Cornwall last week. However, this could not happen as the batch of vaccine we were expecting needs to undergo further testing before it can be released. Opening up the protection zone into Cornwall without a new delivery of vaccine would go against the roll-out strategy and was rejected on the grounds of veterinary risk.

The Royal Cornwall Show (5-7 June) has been affected as it remains in the surveillance zone, which therefore limits the number of animals that could travel to the show because of the associated restrictions on movements out of a protection zone. We have been in contact with the organisers of the show, to keep them informed of the changing plans.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase funding under Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will take steps to make the process of modulating monies more transparent. [208903]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's longer term vision for the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is to end Pillar 1 in the period 2015-20, leaving the CAP targeted at providing environmental benefits through Pillar 2. Therefore, we support the Commission's proposals in the current CAP health check to provide for increased compulsory modulation for all member states in order to provide additional funding through Pillar 2 to address new environmental challenges.

We will be in close discussion with key farming and environmental organisations on the implications of the CAP health check, including proposals for modulation of direct farm payments, in the coming months.

Animal Welfare: EC Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to incorporate the British Animal Health and Welfare Strategy into the forthcoming EU model. [208906]

Jonathan Shaw: The EU Animal Health Strategy and the British Animal Health and Welfare Strategy are complementary strategies and there are no plans for incorporation.

Animals: Diseases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated to research into endemic animal diseases for 2008-09; and how much was spent on such research in each of the last five years, broken down by disease. [208914]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA maintain a wide-ranging research programme of livestock endemic diseases. The following table gives details of how much has been spent (in £ million) on this programme since 2003:

£ million

	Bovine TB	*Endemic zoonoses*[1]	*Endemic diseases not zoonoses*[2]	*Total budget—endemic disease programmes*
2003-04	6.7	3.2	2.3	12.2
2004-05	5.5	2.6	2.4	10.5
2005-06	6.4	2.2	2.5	11.1
2006-07	6.3	2.7	2.4	11.4
2007-08	6.1	2.5	2.5	11.1
2008-09[3]	6.0	2.4	2.6	11.0

[1] Endemic zoonoses include Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli 0157 and Cryptosporidium.

[2] The endemic diseases (not zoonoses) programme includes projects on Bovine Virus Diarrhoea (BVD), Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), mastitis, coccidiosis, sheep gastro-intestinal nematodes, sheep scab, Avian Infectious Bronchitis, Marek's Disease, avian leucosis virus and antimicrobial resistance.

[3] Estimated spend for 2008/09

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the financial impact on livestock markets in *(a)* Devon and *(b)* England of bluetongue movement restrictions. [209456]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK bluetongue control strategy is regularly reviewed with a core group of industry stakeholders, taking into account the latest disease and epidemiological situation, the control measures in place and the effect these measures have on the farming industry as a whole.

To date livestock markets in Devon have not specifically been analysed; however, the effect of the bluetongue restriction zones on the movement of animals in England (which includes movements through markets) has been considered in a cost-benefit analysis, which can be found on the DEFRA website.

Through the core group, DEFRA has regular access to specific expertise on the impact of bluetongue control measures on markets across the country.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when bluetongue vaccine will be available to farmers in Devon. [209482]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: In line with the UK bluetongue vaccination strategy, the bluetongue protection zone was extended into Devon on 23 May. This means that farmers in Devon are currently permitted to order the vaccine from their private veterinarians.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of cows receiving positive *(a)* gamma interferon blood tests and *(b)* skin tests for bovine tuberculosis were subsequently demonstrated to be clear of the disease at post mortem in each of the last five years. [208239]

Jonathan Shaw: It is a misconception that failure to find post-mortem evidence of bovine TB in animals that have previously had a positive reaction to a TB test means such animals are clear of the disease. It is frequently not possible to see typical signs of disease with the naked eye, or to culture the bacterium from tissue samples. Diagnostic tests are more effective at identifying infected cattle than post-mortem analyses. The primary purpose of post-mortem analyses is to support epidemiological investigations and the management of TB outbreaks, not to validate ante-mortem tests.

An important point to note is that the TB testing programme aims to identify and confirm bovine TB on a herd rather than an individual animal basis. Meaningful confirmation rates for gamma interferon reactors, in particular, cannot be provided, as a significant proportion of gamma interferon positive animals are not subject to laboratory culture, as infection has already been identified in the herd.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost is of an individual *(a)* gamma interferon blood test and *(b)* skin test for bovine tuberculosis. [208240]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not possible to provide a precise figure for the unit costs of the gamma interferon blood test or the skin test for bovine tuberculosis as these will vary significantly depending on a range of factors: for example, economies of scale are achieved when either test is used in larger groups of cattle.

However, it is the case that the gamma interferon test is significantly more expensive than the skin test. For illustrative purposes, the costs of skin testing 60 cattle would be in the region of £250 whereas applying the gamma interferon test to the same number would cost around £1,280.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cows were slaughtered after testing positive for bovine tuberculosis in a gamma interferon blood test in each of the last five years. [208241]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of cattle blood sampled, which have tested positive to the gamma interferon test in each of the last six years (for example, since its use was introduced in the field in Britain), can be found in the following table.

Number of reactors to the gamma interferon test (Britain)

	Number
2002	135
2003	545
2004	591
2005	1,476
2006	463
2007	2,773

Gamma reactors identified between 2002 and 23 October 2006 were as a result of a pilot trial, which took place between 2002 and 2005, and ad-hoc use, which continued into 2006 (hence low rates identified in 2006). On 23 October 2006 a new policy of enhanced gamma usage was introduced across Britain. The test is used as a supplement to the skin test and is mandatory in certain scenarios where it can have the biggest impact in reducing disease.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract to date. [206214]

Jonathan Shaw: The core-Department's financial systems do not record a category of expenditure defined as public participation activities. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does set out in its annual departmental report details of the total expenditure on consultancy and professional services. This can be found on the DEFRA website.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* include all breeds of dog within the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 so as to prohibit ownership by unfit persons in place of a general prohibition of ownership of particular breeds of dog and *(b)* prohibit dog rental schemes under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [209626]

Jonathan Shaw: The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 already applies to all breeds and types of dog. Section 3 of the Act makes it an offence for an owner or keeper of a dog of any type or breed to allow the dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, or in a private place where it has no right to be. The courts also already have powers—both under dangerous dogs legislation and the Animal Welfare Act 2006—to disqualify an owner or keeper of a dog from having custody of a dog for any period.

On dog rental schemes, we are not aware that there are a significant number of these schemes in operation. However, we will keep this matter under observation and should there be an upsurge in dog rental schemes we can consider using powers under the Animal Welfare Act to regulate or prohibit such activities.

Dogs: Genetics

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of proposals to use DNA profiling to identify the breeds of dogs being held in kennels under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, as amended; and if he will make a statement on the accuracy of current methods used to identify kennelled dogs. [209158]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials have held discussions with the manufacturers of the DNA tests for dogs. The advice that we received are that the tests would be of limited value and unlikely to provide the evidence required by the court.

On the current methods of identifying prohibited types of dog, DEFRA last year conducted a consultation with police forces in England and Wales on the effectiveness of the legislation. While it was clear from the consultation that Parliament was correct to prohibit pitbull type dogs, it was also evident that some forces did have difficulties in recognising prohibited types of dog. Therefore, to assist the police and local authorities we are giving priority to revising the guidance that DEFRA has issued on recognising prohibited types of dog. The guidance will also help explain the law on dangerous dogs.

Ducks: Animal Welfare

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 172W, on ducks: animal welfare, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research project A Study to Assess the Welfare of Ducks Housed in Systems Currently Used in the UK when it is published; and if he will take steps to give formal notice to hon. and right hon. Members of its publication and of his decision thereon. [208890]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: I will write to the right hon. Member enclosing a copy of the final report of this research project as soon as it is available.

As is the practice with all DEFRA-funded research projects, the final report will also be published on the DEFRA website.

Environment Agency: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the Environment Agency's charging increases for craft registrations on craft numbers over the three years of the proposed charging plan; and by how much registration income is expected to rise. [207607]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency undertook an economic price elasticity study to support the development of its three-year charging plan for craft registrations. This study suggested that the likely effect of three successive 12 per cent. charge increases would be to reduce the number of craft registered on Environment Agency waterways by between 6 and 14 per cent. over the three years.

It is estimated that, on this basis, these increases would raise registration income by between £1 million and £1.5 million (27 to 40 per cent.) against 2006-07 income.

The Environment Agency reports that the first year of the charging plan was implemented for 2007-08, with registration charges being increased by 12 per cent. The registration income received by the Environment Agency increased by £460,000 (12.3 per cent.), whilst the number of registered craft fell by 0.2 per cent. on 2006-07 numbers.

Farms: Rents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the rates of rents on levels of tenant farming. [208905]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA collects rent information through the Tenanted Land Survey which runs every two years in England. The latest information available is from October 2006 and the average rent per hectare for each tenancy type is shown in the following table.

Average rent/hectare

	2004	*2006*	*Percentage change 2006/04*
Full Agricultural Tenancies (FAT's)	110.93	113.98	+2.8
Farm Business Tenancies (FBT's)	147.29	133.21	-9.6
Seasonal agreements[1]	134.89	101.95	-24.4

[1] For less than one year

The increase in FAT rents was mainly due to an increase of 15 per cent. in the rent paid on upland cattle and sheep holdings from £33.70 to £38.69.

Rents for FBT's decreased in every sector, with the largest falls in the upland and lowland cattle and sheep holdings of 21 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively.

There are not enough data available to break down the seasonal agreements rent into farm types.

Full details on rents by farm types can be found under the relevant Statistical Release on the DEFRA website. The next Tenanted Land Survey is due to run in October 2008 and results will be published in March 2009.

Food: Procurement

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to provide greater incentives to use local food sourcing in public procurement. [208904]

Jonathan Shaw: The legal framework governing public procurement does not allow public bodies to provide greater incentives or give greater weight to locally produced food and drink when awarding contracts. This is because public bodies are required to ensure public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade. It would also reduce competition contrary to UK public procurement policy that is designed to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

The legal and policy framework does provide public bodies with plenty of flexibility to be innovative in their procurement. This has allowed us through the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative to set a key objective to increase tendering opportunities for small and local producers. How they can do this, while remaining within the rules, is explained in our guide 'Putting it into practice' that was recently published on the PSFPI website at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/psfpi-putting-into-practice.pdf

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on research into *(a)* bluetongue virus, *(b)* avian influenza, *(c)* foot and mouth disease and *(d)* bovine tuberculosis in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007; and how much his Department has budgeted to spend on research into each in (A) 2008, (B) 2009 and (C) 2010. [209834]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The following table gives details of how much has been spent on research into bluetongue, avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and bovine TB since 2003.

£ million

	Bluetongue	*Avian influenza*	*Foot and mouth disease*	*Bovine TB*[1]
2003-04	0.34	0.23	1.75	6.69
2004-05	0.45	0.38	2.41	5.50
2005-06	0.55	0.47	2.06	6.43
2006-07	0.63	0.48	2.43	6.30
2007-08	0.71	0.68	3.12	6.15
2008-09[2]	0.73	0.71	2.89	6.00

[1] In addition to the sums [illegible]pent on research into bovine TB, since 2006, a further £2 million [illegible]ear has been provided to support work on the development of TB diagnostic and vaccine products.

[2] Estimated Spend

It is not possible at this time to give budgets for research in 2009-10 as the process of identifying and prioritising new research needs is currently under way.

Pesticides: Environment Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risks posed by the agricultural use of clothianidin and other neonicotinoid pesticides to *(a)* the wider insect population and *(b)* the beekeeping industry. [208891]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of neonicotinoid pesticides are currently approved for use in the UK including: clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, acetamiprid and thiamethoxam.

The risks posed by products containing neonicotinoid pesticides to insects and bees were assessed as part of the authorisation process to which all pesticides are subjected before they are approved for use by Ministers.

Laboratory studies indicate that these compounds have high toxicity to honeybees and other insects such as ladybirds, lacewings and some ground dwelling beetles. However, studies conducted under field conditions, using products containing these compounds in accordance with their approved conditions of use provide data which support the conclusion that the level of risk is acceptable.

Field studies included monitoring impacts on honeybees confined to tents and exposed to flowering crops of maize, oilseed rape and sunflowers grown from seed treated with pesticides in excess of the UK approved application rate. No significant differences on bee behaviour or mortality were reported in treated and untreated crops.

Pets: EU Action

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on ratifying the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals; and if he will make a statement. [209133]

Jonathan Shaw: Discussions have taken place with key stakeholders regarding the convention. It is clear that signing and ratifying the convention raises a number of complex issues including the concerns regarding the resolution on breed standards. These matters need to be carefully considered and at present officials responsible for implementing codes and secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act need to concentrate on those concerns raised by Parliament during the passage of the Act.

Pets: Sales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward regulations on pet vending under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [209157]

Jonathan Shaw: While it is the intention of my Department to review the legislation on the selling of pet animals, I cannot offer a date when such a review will take place. The urgency to review the legislation was removed in 2006 when the High Court made a judgment on a Judicial Review about the issuing of a licence, under the Pet Animals Act 1951, to the organisers of a pet fair. One of the findings from the Judicial Review was that local authorities could not issue licences under the 1951 Act to organisers of pet fairs, where these events involved the sale of animals, as part of a business, to members of the public.

Rural Payments Agency: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* original target and *(b)* actual reduction in (i) staffing numbers and (ii) associated expenditure was in the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208187]

Jonathan Shaw: The original target for staffing numbers for the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) was 1,946. This figure was based on the assumption that the new IT solution would deliver significant headcount efficiencies, which did not prove to be the case.

The target did not include FTA, casual or agency staff as the intention was that the IT solution would enable RPA to phase out the use of these staff. However it proved necessary to retain agency staff and, as operational pressures increased, more were recruited.

Since the target was set the merger with the British Cattle Movement Service, in September 2003, and amalgamation of the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate and Investigation Branch into RPA. In April 2006, added approximately 590 staff.

RPA staffing numbers in each of the last five years are:

	Number
2003-04	3,996
2004-05	3,892
2005-06	4,592
2006-07	4,467
2007-08	4,297

Expenditure on Staffing:

Financial year 2003-04	
	Total staff costs (£000)
Wages and salaries	70,491
Social security costs	4,784
Other pension costs	10,537
Total	85,812
Agency staff	4,777
Total	90,589

Financial year 2004-05	
	Total staff costs (£000)
Wages and salaries	70,260
Social security costs	5,156
Other pension costs	8,116
Total	83,532
Agency staff	4,473
Total	88,005

Financial year 2005-06	
	Total staff costs (£000)
Wages and salaries	70,836
Social security costs	5,461
Other pension costs	10,144
Total	86,441
Agency staff	21,085
Total	107,526

Financial year 2006-07	
	Total staff costs (£000)
Wages and salaries	71,612
Social security costs	5,496
Other pension costs	10,985
Total	88,093
Agency staff	24,334
Total	112,427

For financial year 2007-08 the costs are not yet audited and therefore not available.

Seas and Oceans: Nature Conservation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence he has on the effectiveness of marine conservation areas in *(a)* fishing waters with reefs and *(b)* areas of mixed fisheries. [209720]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the right conditions, marine conservation areas are valuable tools for the preservation and enhancement of certain critical habitats and of site-attached shellfish and finfish populations. In specific situations, closed areas may benefit mobile commercial species. However, all conservation areas should be assessed for their effectiveness on a case-by-case basis in relation to the objectives of the area.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish maps showing the scale and location of marine conservation areas to be established under the Marine Bill. [209721]

Jonathan Shaw: The process of identifying areas for designation as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), as proposed in Part 4 of the draft Marine Bill, will be based, as far as possible, on consensus between stakeholders. With this in mind, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee are establishing a series of regional stakeholder-led partnership projects. These projects will be advised on appropriate site selection principles, including relevant scientific and national policy considerations, by the statutory conservation agencies and a number of national steering groups. The regional projects will make choices and then submit recommendations to the Secretary of State, by Easter 2011.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms will be used to protect marine conservation areas envisaged in his draft Marine Bill from fishing. [209722]

Jonathan Shaw: Within six nautical miles of baseline, the draft Marine Bill proposes that Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will be required to further the conservation objectives set for marine conservation zones (MCZs). This will be achieved through the use of mechanisms such as the introduction of byelaws. In areas of shared fisheries, beyond six nautical miles, we would seek to secure the protection of MCZs from damaging fishing activities through the common fisheries policy.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has for the involvement of fishermen and their organisations in implementing marine conservation areas; and what discussions he has had with them on the matter in preparation of the draft Marine Bill. [209723]

Jonathan Shaw: Fishermen are an integral part of in the 'Finding Sanctuary' project, which is currently developing proposals for a network of marine conservation areas in waters off the coast of south-west England. Fishermen are represented on the project steering group and are also participating in the mapping of fishing grounds and habitats in the region. 'Finding Sanctuary' is the model that Natural England are following in seeking to establish similar stakeholder-led projects for the Eastern channel, North sea and Irish sea.

I regularly meet with the fishing industry to discuss a wide range of issues, including marine protected areas. Commercial and recreational fishermen have been involved in the development of the draft Marine Bill through public consultations in 2006 and 2007. Fishing industry representatives have been involved in gathering evidence for the impact assessment, which was published alongside the draft Marine Bill. Officials have also had various formal and informal discussions with officers of Sea Fisheries Committees and the Association of Sea Fisheries Committees.

Wildlife: Cyprus

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the compliance with EU law of hunting and trapping of wild birds in Cyprus and Malta. [210071]

Joan Ruddock: I have not had any recent discussions at EU level on this issue.

Within the European Union, the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the "Birds Directive") affords protection to all wild birds. Responsibility for ensuring that member states comply with the Birds Directive is a matter for the European Commission. The UK Government support the role of the Commission in taking justified and proportionate action to ensure that the common rules for the protection of wild birds laid down in the Birds Directive are followed by member states.

The Commission does take action against countries which fail to fully comply with the directive. In June 2007 the Commission sent a warning letter to Cypriot authorities, regarding a two-day exemption which permitted the hunting of turtle doves in spring, and warned that any future exemptions from the directive could lead to legal action being taken. The Cypriot authorities agreed not to renew this exemption. The Commission has also taken action to prevent spring hunting of certain birds in Malta, which it believes is contrary to the provisions of the Birds Directive. This action resulted in a ruling from the European Court of Justice preventing Malta from authorising the hunting of quails and turtle doves outside the period of hunting for these species permitted under the Birds Directive.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Local Administration in England

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of any regulatory limitations on the powers of the Office of the Local Government Ombudsman to fulfil its functions; [208899]

(2) whether she has considered the merits of developing the *(a)* role and *(b)* powers of the office of the Local Government Ombudsman. [208900]

Mr. Dhanda: Our 2006 local government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous communities', proposed a number of reforms to modernise the role of the Local Government Ombudsman, including extending their jurisdiction, which we have implemented from April 2008.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the contribution made by the Local Government Ombudsman to *(a)* good practice, *(b)* increasing professional standards, *(c)* probity, *(d)* improving quality decision taking and *(e)* striving for improvement in local government. [208901]

Mr. Dhanda: Decisions and recommendations of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in response to allegations of maladministration in local authorities are made wholly independently of Government. However, to ensure their public accountability, the LGO publishes a comprehensive annual review, showing performance against business goals for the year. They also submit an annual detailed business statement to my Department, which we assess carefully before deciding the level of their annual grant, which is subject to the approval of the House. From these documents we are satisfied that the LGO continues to provide a valuable and efficient means of redress for citizens facing maladministration by local authorities.

Councillors: Convictions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councillors have been convicted of criminal offences in each London borough since April 2006. [209655]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not hold the information requested.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when each of her Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209418]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government and its agencies do not currently have green transport plans in place. However, guidance on sustainable travel practices, a sustainable travel hierarchy and associated reduction targets are contained within the Department's sustainable operations policy. A copy of this policy has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Fire Service College

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the future of the Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh. [209896]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department will continue to support the Fire Service College to be the national training provider of choice for the Fire and Rescue Service, providing high quality training which meets FRS needs at affordable cost. The Department has invested over £14 million in the development of new training facilities and student accommodation at the Moreton-in-Marsh site since 2003 and is working with the college to ensure that it can deliver training and fulfil its obligations as a trading fund.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reports her Department has commissioned from consultants into the running of the Fire Service College; and if she will publish them. [209897]

Mr. Dhanda: In August 2005 the Department commissioned Ernst and Young to carry out a feasibility study into investment in the infrastructure and facilities of the Fire Service College. This study reported in February 2006. In November 2006 the Department commissioned Mouchel Parkman Services Ltd. to follow up the feasibility study by producing a business case on the options for securing investment in the Moreton-in-Marsh site and highlighting the most appropriate method of optimising the College's financial performance. This study reported in June 2007. College management was closely involved in both studies.

Both reports contain commercially sensitive information and the Department has no plans to publish them.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on a merger of the Fire Service College and the Emergency Planning College. [209899]

Mr. Dhanda: The roles of the Fire Service College and Emergency Planning College are complementary but different. The Fire Service College focuses on specialist training at the operational (Bronze), tactical (Silver) and strategic (Gold) levels with around 90 per cent. of its students coming from the Fire and Rescue Service. The Emergency Planning College brings together the emergency services and the many organisations involved in multi-agency working at the Gold level in large scale emergencies, including non-blue light scenarios such as influenza. Fire and Rescue Service students comprise less than 10 per cent. of the Emergency Planning College's intake.

The Fire Service College and the Emergency Planning College co-operate where joint working has the potential to enhance the multi-agency approach and thereby strengthen national resilience.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations have been made to her Department by the Chief Fire Officers' Association on fire and rescue training at the Fire Service College. [209900]

Mr. Dhanda: I meet regularly with the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) presidential team to receive representations and to discuss issues of concern, as do officials from the Department's Fire and Resilience Directorate.

Fire Service College: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department did not agree to the Fire Service College's request for a loan for a new residential block; and if she will publish the business case on which the request was based. [209898]

Mr. Dhanda: The Fire Service College's business case for a new accommodation block providing 100 en-suite bedrooms was approved by the Department in October 2006. This costed the project at £4.2 million and a completion date of April 2008. The Department agreed to fund the project via a loan from its 2007-08 capital provision.

In November 2007, by which time only preparatory works had been completed, the college asked the Department to increase the proposed loan to £5 million, the total cost of the project having increased by 25 per cent. to £5.5 million. Completion had also slipped to 2009, taking the bulk of project costs into 2008-09, for which the Department had not made financial provision. Proceeding with the project would consequently have impacted on other high priority fire and resilience projects and agreement to provide loan funding was withdrawn. The college has been reimbursed for the costs it incurred on the project prior to this decision.

It is not the Department's practice to publish documents which have been produced to inform internal management decisions.

Fire Service College: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance the Fire Service College gave to the community in its area during the flooding in summer 2007. [209906]

Mr. Dhanda: The Fire Service College and its staff played a significant role in coming to the aid of hundreds of people affected by the floods on 20 and 21 July in the north Cotswolds. At the request of Gloucestershire FRS, three of the college's fire appliances supported the rescue efforts of the emergency services. They were crewed by 20 staff and secondees and rescued about 100 people from their homes and stranded vehicles in the area around Moreton. Firefighters working at the college helped with several rescues from the local town using vehicles, a boat and a tractor.

The college provided overnight shelter for over 320 members of the public, many of them elderly and infirm, who had been left homeless or were unable to complete their journeys. They were accommodated in the college's residential blocks over the course of the weekend, and provided with dry clothes, beds, hot food and drinks.

Fire Service College: Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* income, *(b)* expenditure and *(c)* staff numbers of the Fire Service College were in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [209932]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of Fire Service College income and expenditure for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 together with staff numbers for those periods are set out in the following table. Figures for 2007-08 remain subject to final agreement by the National Audit Office.

	(i) 2006/07	*(ii) 2007/08*
(a) Income (£000)	22,565	22,441
(b) Expenditure (£000)[1]	23,321	23,203
(c) Staff numbers (FTE average)	273	256

[1] Planned deficits of £700,000 in each of the two years to support implementation of the UKFRS Learning and Development Strategy were approved by Ministers. The Department waived dividend payments from the college to CLG in both years.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service in each fire authority area in each year since 1994 required standby or precautionary measures to be implemented because of a potentially hazardous situation. [209506]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of non-fire incidents attended, by each Fire and Rescue Service, that required standby or precautionary measures is available for the period 1995 to 2007 and has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many special service incidents, including those not specified, were attended by the fire service in each year since 1994. [209507]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the total number of special service incidents attended, by each Fire and Rescue Service, is available for the period 1995 to 2007. This information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Flood Control: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the Environment Agency's requirements for flood risk assessments prior to development on Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [204602]

Caroline Flint: Communities and local Government invited representations earlier this year from local delivery partners on barriers to regeneration in the Thames Gateway. In April the Department received a representation from Essex county council which included concerns about the Environment Agency's requirements for flood risk assessments prior to development on Canvey Island.

Following this, discussions have recently taken place between the Department and other interested parties, including the authorities in Essex, to explore ways in which the requirement for flood risk assessments could be better tailored to Canvey Island's circumstances, including the need for regeneration.

Local Government: Accountability

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given on the operation of question-times or regular meetings at which local government Cabinet or Executive members give an account of their stewardship. [209779]

Mr. Dhanda: The guidance, 'New Councils Constitution: guidance to English Local Authorities', which we issued following the Local Government Act 2000, highlights the importance of councils encouraging public participation in their meetings for example through taking questions or comments on the leader's report and offering opportunities for public interactive sessions.

Planning Permission

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of planning decisions by *(a)* Wolverhampton City Council, *(b)* Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, *(c)* Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, *(d)* Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, *(e)* Birmingham City Council and *(f)* local authorities in England were (i) appealed to and (ii) successful following appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in (A) 2003, (B) 2004, (C) 2005, (D) 2006 and (E) 2007. [207536]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate does not record the proportion of planning decisions that come to the Inspectorate on appeal. However, the Inspectorate calculates that between 3 and 4 per cent. of council decisions result in an appeal.

Over the past five years approximately 3 to 4 per cent. of LPA decisions have come to use on appeal (see following).

		Appeals received	
	LPA decisions	*Number*	*Percentage*
2003-04	624,000	22,551	3.61
2004-05	645,000	23,075	3.58
2005-06	598,000	22,121	3.70
2006-07	587,000	22,710	3.87
2007-08[1]	464,000	17,055	3.68

[1] Only first three quarters of 2007-08 data are available.

The following table represents the number of planning appeals (i) received, decided and (ii) allowed (with percentage) during the period requested:

	(i) Received	*Decided*	*(ii) Allowed*	*Percentage allowed*
(a) Wolverhampton				
2003	60	58	24	41
2004	80	60	20	33
2005	67	74	30	41
2006	73	62	24	39
2007	69	62	20	32
(b) Sandwell				
2003	37	34	13	38
2004	53	24	13	54
2005	23	41	18	44
2006	42	35	19	54
2007	38	32	16	50
(c) Walsall				
2003	47	32	19	59
2004	73	46	19	41
2005	78	76	27	36
2006	68	58	17	29
2007	72	60	24	40
(d) Dudley				
2003	67	64	20	31
2004	76	50	18	36

	(i) Received	Decided	(ii) Allowed	Percentage allowed
2005	90	80	37	46
2006	85	88	46	52
2007	64	62	34	55
(e) Birmingham				
2003	154	157	55	35
2004	206	126	39	31
2005	171	182	47	26
2006	161	152	51	34
2007	183	154	48	31
(f) All local planning authorities				
2003	20,594	18,067	6,051	33
2004	25,139	16,509	5,584	34
2005	20,768	22,367	7,434	33
2006	23,058	19,863	6,754	34
2007	22,827	20,536	7,336	36

Regional Planning and Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Government plans to reduce the gap in growth rates between the regions. [208823]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to improving the economic performance of all English regions and reducing the gap in economic growth rates between English regions. The 2007 comprehensive spending review confirmed this commitment in the regional economic performance public service agreement (PSA). The delivery plan for the public service agreement, published in October 2007 and available on the HM Treasury website, sets out how contributing Departments and partner organisations will achieve the target.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of regional ambulance emergency operation centres. [209295]

Mr. Bradshaw: Arrangements for where ambulance service control rooms are situated are a matter for the current local national health service.

The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of the current regional ambulance emergency operation centres. However, in order to help inform trusts' decisions on control rooms, the Department commissioned a report on operating models for NHS ambulance trust control rooms in England to help assess the likely requirements of control rooms and supporting technology requirements, given that trusts would need to respond to higher levels of activity following reconfiguration of services which commenced in July 2006. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 148 of his Department's annual report 2008, if he will provide a breakdown of strategic health authority (SHA) running costs by SHA; and what percentage of these costs would be classed as *(a)* administration and *(b)* frontline service delivery. [209135]

Mr. Bradshaw: The running costs of each strategic health authority (SHA) in 2008-09 are shown in the following table, the allocations do not make a distinction between administration and frontline service delivery.

SHA running costs 2008-09 (including estates advisers)

SHA	*Total (£000)*
North East	9,756.5
North West	10,672.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	9,756.5
East Midlands	9,987.5
West Midlands	10,105.1
East of England	10,109.3
London	13,981.1
South East Coast	10,001.4
South Central	9,988.6
South West	10,081.7
Total	104,440.3

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 148 of his Department's annual report 2008, for what reasons EEA medical costs are expected to rise by £100 million from 2007-08 to 2008-09; [209136]

(2) what the reasons are for the difference between the £709 million listed for EEA medical costs in Figure 9.19 and the £0.8 billion in Figure 9.5. [209186]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European economic area (EEA) medical costs budget forecasts in figure 9.19 of £673 million for 2007-08 and £709 million for 2008-09 were made early in the calendar year 2008.

The EEA medical costs budget is a demand led budget and the key drivers include:

the number of United Kingdom citizens who are retired, working or travelling in other EEA countries;

the growth of health expenditure in other member states; and

the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

Most of the EEA medical cost claims are paid in the euro currency. The recent strength of the euro has led to an upward revaluation of budget forecasts. The final outturn for EEA medical costs for 2007-08 will be published in the 'Public Expenditure Outturn' White Paper in July 2008.

Figure 9.5 anticipates the impact of the change in exchange rate in 2008-09, so shows a higher rounded estimate forecast of £0.8 billion.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209425]

Mr. Bradshaw: Around 3 per cent. of staff have received vocational training through corporate channels over the last three years. However, records of other vocational training provided at a local level within the Department are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to survey.

Diamorphine

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25th February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1198-99W, on diamorphine, who the suppliers of diamorphine to the NHS are; how many ampoules of each strength were supplied by each company in the first quarter of each year from 2002 to 2006; and what these were in each case as a percentage of historic demand. [207684]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are currently three suppliers of diamorphine injection to the UK market:

Auralis Ltd.;

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd., and

Wockhardt UK Ltd.

The information to provide the breakdown in sales by supplier is not collected centrally.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* regularly offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [208694]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has the following items available for purchase through staff catering facilities: Geobars, cereal bars and bananas.

Only bananas are offered at official meetings and engagements.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much and what proportion of revenue from his Department's staff catering facilities was from sales of Fairtrade products in each of the last three financial years. [208695]

Mr. Bradshaw: No figures are available for previous years. Figures are currently being collected for the current financial year.

Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to finalise the Healthy Food Code of Practice outlined in his Department's Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives Strategy. [207795]

Dawn Primarolo: We are working with the Food Standards Agency on development of proposed outcomes and goals necessary to implement the Healthy Food Code of Good Practice and will be liaising with stakeholders to agree and finalise these during 2008.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions there will be under GP contracts when opening hours are extended to ensure practices are available and appropriately staffed during core hours. [209796]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: General practitioner (GP) practices are extending their opening hours by entering into enhanced service agreements with their primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of their contractual arrangements. An overriding principle in entering into such agreements is that practices should maintain standards of access and availability during contracted core hours. GP practices remain contractually required to provide essential, and where appropriate, additional primary medical services that are appropriate to meet the reasonable needs of their patients within core hours. Where they do not meet those requirements, they may be judged by their PCT to be in breach of their contract.

Hospital Beds: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population were available at Milton Keynes hospital in each year since 1997. [210126]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: The information requested is shown for Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust in the following table. Data have been provided for beds per 1,000 population.

Bed availability at Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust, 1996-97 to 2006-07

	Number of available beds in wards open overnight and day only	*Number of available beds in wards open overnight and day only per 1,000 pop*
1996-97	391	1.99
1997-98	399	2.00
1998-99	398	1.96
1999-2000	403	1.95
2000-01	400	1.91
2001-02	396	1.86
2002-03	423	1.97
2003-04	442	2.04
2004-05	452	2.07
2005-06	475	2.15
2006-07	470	2.09

Note:

Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust became a foundation trust on 1 October 2007, but this is not reflected in the table as the latest published data are for 2006-07.

Source:

Bed availability data: Department of Health data set KH03; Population data: Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates for Milton Keynes Unitary Authority.

Hospitals: Transport

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publicise the extension of the hospital travel costs scheme to all who are eligible for the scheme; and if he will establish a mechanism to monitor the uptake of the scheme. [209797]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: The Hospital Travel Costs Scheme was extended on 1 April 2008 to allow eligibility to the scheme to encompass referrals made by doctors and dentists, in addition to the existing referrals through a consultant. To reflect these changes the scheme was renamed the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme.

A number of marketing and communications activities aimed at raising awareness both within the national health service and with those who would be eligible to access it have been undertaken as part of the relaunch of the scheme. We have developed and made available patient information leaflets and posters for display in NHS hospitals and treatment centres. We have also developed patient information cards which will be provided to general practitioner (GP) and dental surgeries for distribution to patients. We have written to the NHS, GPs and dentists informing them of the changes to the scheme and the requirements placed on them within regulations to manage its delivery. Instructions and guidance has been made available on the Department's website to assist them in this function. This information is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083704

In addition, voluntary sector organisations have also been consulted on, and informed of, scheme revisions to ensure that information is available to those who need it.

We are currently developing a performance management regime that will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these actions on the uptake of the scheme, while ensuring that the minimal administrative burden is placed on the NHS.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time was for *(a)* an outpatient first appointment and *(b)* an inpatient appointment in (i) Cornwall, (ii) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, (iii) the south-west region and (iv) England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [209674]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table. Figures are collected at primary care trust (PCT) level and therefore no information is available for constituencies in Cornwall.

Median in-patient and out-patient waiting times Cornwall, south-west and England, April 2008

Weeks

	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	*South West Strategic Health Authority*	*England*
Out-patient	2.0	2.2	2.2
In-patient	4.2	4.2	4.0

Notes:

1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting at the end of the period.
2. Outpatient waiting times are measured from a general practitioner referral to a first outpatient appointment by the consultant.
3. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

Source:

Monthly monitoring return - commissioner based

Monitor: Healthcare Commission

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the policy objectives are of retaining Monitor and the Healthcare Commission as separate entities; and if he will set out the objectives of each organisation; [209590]

(2) if he will merge Monitor and the Healthcare Commission. [209592]

Mr. Bradshaw: Subject to parliamentary approval, the Health and Social Care Bill will establish the Care Quality Commission. From April 2009, the new Commission will take over from the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission.

The two regulatory bodies will have different and very specific roles.

The Care Quality Commission will be responsible for regulating services across the health and adult social care sectors. The new Commission will have a number functions including assuring safety and quality across all types of provider of health and adult social care. It will have enforcement powers it can use when a provider is not complying with essential safety and quality requirements.

There are no plans to change the role of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts). Monitor will continue its specific role of authorising and regulating national health service foundation trusts to ensure that they meet the requirements for governance, financial stability and delivery of mandatory services set out in their terms of authorisation.

NHS European Office

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was provided by each strategic health authority to fund the NHS European Office in Brussels in 2007-08. [207827]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European Office is part of the NHS Confederation and is funded by the strategic health authorities. It was established in September 2007 to inform NHS organisations of key European Union developments and to help the national health service to respond to EU policy and legislative developments on a strategic level. Specific information on funding allocated to the NHS European Office is not held centrally.

Further information about the NHS European Office and its activities and funding is available at its website at:

www.nhsconfed.org/europe

NHS: DHL

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1668W, on the NHS: DHL, what percentage of the £1 billion expected savings has been achieved to date. [209985]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: To the end of March 2008, the percentage of the expected savings achieved was ahead of target at 1.3 per cent.

The savings escalate over the 10-year term as they are driven by increasing turnover and contract renewals. The savings are expected to be significantly lower in the first five years compared to the second five years of the term.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department plans to spend on Connecting for Health in each of the next 10 financial years; [205220]

(2) how much of the £0.9 billion Connecting for Health revenue budget in 2007-08 was spent. [205221]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 123-24W.

Outturn revenue expenditure for 2007-08, subject to audit, was £0.503 billion.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the financial penalties incurred for the early termination of the NHS IT contract with Fujitsu. [208999]

Mr. Bradshaw: The direct financial consequences for both parties resulting from the Department's decision to issue a notice to terminate the contract with Fujitsu Services Limited as local service provider under the National Programme for Information Technology, will be established in the period ahead. The Department and Fujitsu are committed to seeking a resolution of outstanding matters by agreement if possible, and this process has begun.

Osteoporosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* include treatment for osteoporosis in the GP quality outcare framework and *(b)* increase the level of funding for such treatment. [209625]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 5 May 2008 that the Government are consulting the British Medical Association (BMA) on proposals to invest an extra £100 million on improving clinical services and access for patients. The Government propose to invest an extra £50 million in enhanced clinical services, which would include improving the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis according to the best practice guidelines set out by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. The amount of investment in each area is subject to consultation with the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA.

We expect the content of the Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2009-10 to be, as usual, a matter for consultation between NHS Employers and the BMA, informed by the independent expert panel.

Salt: Health Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Sid the Slug campaign; and what *(a)* mechanisms, *(b)* baselines and *(c)* targets have been established to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. [207031]

Dawn Primarolo: The total cost of the Sid the Slug campaign was £4,204,000.

To measure effectiveness of the campaign, specific pre and post campaign tracking research was established using RSGB face-to-face adult omnibus survey which interviews a nationally representative sample of adults 16-years-old and over in the United Kingdom. The pre-campaign research set a baseline on awareness and claimed behaviour. Targets based on these baselines were set. These were:

increase awareness among our target audience that too much salt in the diet is bad for your heart from 32 per cent. to 42 per cent. (result 46 per cent.); and

increase in claim to be trying to cut down their salt intake among our target audience from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. (result 49 per cent.).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Blackpool

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of staff employed at the Mexford House, Blackpool site; and eligible for redeployment within his Department, utilised the exit scheme in each of the last three years. [205691]

Mrs. McGuire: In the last three years the percentage of staff employed at Mexford House eligible for redeployment who utilised the Department's exit scheme is shown in the following table.

	Percentage
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	35

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overtime hours were worked at the disability and carers service based at Warbreck Hill in each of the last five years. [205695]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested as records are not retained of the number of overtime hours worked. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Total expenditure on overtime at the disability and carers service's operation at Warbreck Hill site over the last five years and as a percentage of the total paybill.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Overtime expenditure (£ million)	1.90	1.59	2.20	2.86	1.79
Overtime expenditure as percentage of total paybill	4	4	4	5	3

Child Support Agency: Compensation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many compensation payments have been made by the Child Support Agency for maladministration since 1 January 1998; and how many of those exceeded *(a)* £1,000, *(b)* £10,000, *(c)* £50,000 and *(d)* £90,000; [200813]

(2) how many clients of the Child Support Agency have received compensation payments totalling more than *(a)* £1,000, *(b)* £10,000, *(c)* £50,000 and *(d)* £90,000 for maladministration by the Agency since 1 January 1998. [200814]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many compensation payments have been made by the Child Support Agency for maladministration since 1st January 1998; and how many of those exceeded (a) £1,000 (b) £10,000 (c) £50,000 and (d) £90,000 [200813]; and

How many clients of the Child Support Agency have received compensation payments totalling more than (a) £1,000 (b) £10,000 (c) £50,000 and (d) £90,000 for maladministration by the Agency since 1st January 1998. [200814]

The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Awards may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused. The majority of these consolatory payments are for less than £100.

Such information as is available is set out in the attached table. The Agency holds information on the number of consolatory payments made only, and not the number of clients who receive such payments. Information on the number of consolatory payments made is not available prior to December 2001.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency consolatory payments

	Payments made	Amount awarded (£)
December 2001 to March 2008	61,000	
Of which:	4,500	1,000 to 9,999
	100	10,000 to 49,999
	0	50,000 to 89,999
	0	90,000 +

Notes:

1. The total number of payments made is rounded to nearest 1,000. The number of payments made by value of payment is rounded to nearest 100.
2. These figures relate to consolatory payments only, these payments include awards made following admission of maladministration and are in recognition of either severe distress, gross embarrassment or gross inconvenience, and are the closest category of payment relating to compensation.
3. The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Awards may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused.
4. Information on the total amount paid out under the non-statutory scheme is published annually in the Child Support Agency annual report and accounts and is therefore subject to external audit. The analysis carried out in the table is based on internal Agency records and due to recording and timing differences may differ from figures previously published in the annual accounts.

Child Support Agency: Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 177W, on Child Support Agency: payments, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures for number and value of payments in respect of payments for *(a)* gross inconvenience, *(b)* embarrassment and *(c)* severe distress. [205480]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 26th March 2008, Official Report, column 177W, on Child Support Agency: payments if he will provide a breakdown of the figures for number and value of payments in respect of payments for (a) gross inconvenience (b) embarrassment and (c) severe distress. [205480]

Information on the number and value of consolatory payments in respect of (a) gross inconvenience (b) embarrassment and (c) severe distress from 2002/03 to 2006/07 is set out in the attached tables. Information on the breakdown of consolatory payment categories prior to 2002/03 is not available.

The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Awards may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency consolatory payments

	Gross inconvenience		Gross embarrassment		Severe distress		Total	
	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)	Number
2002/03	624,000	8,100	8,000	100	29,000	200	661,000	8,400
2003/04	392,000	5,400	4,000	100	11,000	100	407,000	5,600
2004/05	567,000	8,800	6,000	100	10,000	100	583,000	9,000
2005/06	596,000	9,000	6,000	100	5,000	100	607,000	9,200
2006/07	652,000	9,000	5,000	100	8,000	100	666,000	9,200

Notes:

1. The total number of payments made is rounded to nearest 100. The value of payment is rounded to nearest £1,000.
2. These figures relate to consolatory payments only, these payments include awards made following admission of maladministration and are in recognition of either severe distress, gross embarrassment or gross inconvenience, and are the closest category of payment relating to compensation.
3. The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Awards may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused.
4. Information on the total amount paid out under the non-statutory scheme is published annually in the Child Support Agency Annual report and Accounts and is therefore subject to external audit. The analysis carried out in the table is based on internal Agency records and due to recording and timing differences may differ from figures previously published in the Annual Accounts.
5. Information on the type of consolatory payment made is not available prior to December 2001. The first full year available is therefore 2002/03.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204385]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of visits that were made to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Secretary of State in his official capacity since taking up post on the 24 January 2008 is in the following table.

James Purnell	
Visits to	*Number*
Scotland	1
Wales	0
Northern Ireland	0

Departmental Opinion Polls

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been of opinion polling conducted for his Department *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in 2008; if he will place copies of all poll questions in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [200825]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has not conducted any opinion polls.

My Department has, however, conducted an annual omnibus survey on public attitudes to the Government's welfare reform programme. This research was limited between 2001 and 2004. In 2005 and 2008, to make the findings more robust, an increased number of new attitude statements were tested amongst the public prior to being included in omnibus research. In 2005 we also conducted a piece of research to monitor public awareness of the Department and its responsibilities.

To date in 2008, my Department has conducted two omnibus surveys designed to raise awareness of the change to state retirement age for women and to encourage planning and saving for retirement.

Details are provided in the following table.

	Cost (£)
2001 Public Attitudes Wave 1	9,350
2002 Public Attitudes Wave 2	9,600
2003 Public Attitudes Wave 3	10,450
2004 Public Attitudes Wave 4	11,100
2005 Public Attitudes Wave 5 and New 1 Public Awareness	86,000
2006 Public Attitudes	50,000
2007 Public Attitudes	32,030
2008 Public Attitudes	40,850
2008 Attitudes to pension saving	1,550
2008 Attitudes to retirement	4,480
Total costs	255,410

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what issues his Department has conducted opinion polling since 2005; and what the cost has been in each case. [200826]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has not conducted any opinion polls since 2005.

My Department has conducted annual omnibus surveys to monitor public attitudes to the Government's welfare reform programme between 2005-08. In addition, a further piece of research was conducted in 2005 to monitor public awareness of the Department and its responsibilities.

To date in 2008, my Department has conducted two omnibus surveys designed to raise awareness of the change to state retirement age for women and to encourage planning and saving for retirement.

Details are provided in the following table.

	£
2005 Public Attitudes	43,000
2005 Public Awareness	43,000
2006 Public Attitudes	50,000
2007 Public Attitudes	32,030
2008 Public Attitudes	40,850
2008 Attitudes to pension saving	1,550
2008 Attitudes to retirement	4,480

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200765]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is set out in the remuneration report, which forms part of the Department for Work and Pensions' resource accounts. In addition this information is also available within Department's agencies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultants have been contracted by his Department to conduct public participation activities in the last three years; and how much expenditure his Department has incurred on each such contract. [206208]

Mrs. McGuire: The consultant contracts that address public participation activities also cover a range of other services and so to provide the specific detail you are requesting would result in disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what baseline figure is being used to measure performance against each of his Department's 2004 Public Service Agreement targets. [200809]

Mrs. McGuire: The baselines for all the Department's 2004 targets are contained in the Technical Note published as part of the Public Service Agreement and have been reproduced in all performance reports covering the period, most recently in the 2007 DWP Autumn Performance Report, which is available in the Library and on the Department's website.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what overseas visits he has undertaken since taking up his post. [206267]

Mrs. McGuire: Since taking up post on the 24 January 2008, the Secretary of State has visited New York and Paris in his official capacity.

All official travel in my Department is undertaken strictly in accordance with the rules contained in the Cabinet Office Management Code. All ministerial travel is undertaken fully in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Employment and Support Allowance: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training activity claimants of the Employment and Support allowance may undertake that is *(a)* work related and *(b)* not work related. [210199]

Mr. Timms: The arrangements will be exactly the same as currently under incapacity benefits. Claimants on employment and support allowance will be permitted to undertake any unpaid training arrangement made under section 2(1) of the Employment and Training Act 1973 or section 2(3) of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990 which will help them return to work. In addition, they are able to participate in training courses for 16 hours or more a week, where the primary purpose is the teaching of occupational or vocational skills.

Employment Schemes: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was spent on the New Deal for Young People in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district; [205476]

(2) how much was spent on the New Deal for 25 plus in each Jobcentre Plus District in each year since 1997, broken down by Jobcentre Plus District; [205489]

(3) how much was spent on all Government employment programmes in each Jobcentre Plus District in each year since 1997. [205490]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of existing claimants of housing benefit who have had their benefits reduced as a result of changes by the Rent Service to the localities used to calculate reference rents. [210244]

Mr. Plaskitt: Housing benefit customers living in the deregulated private rented sector may be affected by the review of localities when their annual referral to the rent officer is made. This process occurs gradually over the course of a year, depending on when the customer made their original claim for housing benefit. Only those customers who have been in receipt of housing benefit for a continuous period of 52 weeks or more, and who made a claim prior to the introduction of the new locality, will be affected.

The Department for Work and Pensions has estimated that as a result of the localities review, out of a total of 800,000 living in the private rented sector in England, approximately 85,000 customers may see an increase in their entitlement while approximately 30,000 customers may experience a reduction in their benefit entitlement.

Similar analysis by the Scottish Government shows that approximately 2,000 housing benefit customers out of a total of 60,000 living in the private rent sector in Scotland may experience a reduction in benefit entitlement, while approximately 5,000 may see a gain in their entitlement. The vast majority of customers will see their housing benefit entitlement remain unchanged as a result of the review.

There is no similar analysis for Wales as the review there has been implemented more gradually over a longer time horizon.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance there are in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England. [210245]

Mr. Plaskitt: The local housing allowance was rolled out nationally from 7 April 2008 and it is too early to provide case load information.

Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level. The most recent information available is in the following table.

Housing benefit recipients as at May 2007

	Number
England	3,401,590
Lancashire	92,240
Ribble Valley Borough Council	1,490

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Housing benefit excludes any extended payment cases.
4. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
5. Lancashire includes the following local authorities: Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Burnley; Chorley; Fylde; Hyndburn; Lancaster; Pendle; Preston; Ribble Valley; Rossendale; South Ribble; West Lancashire; and Wyre.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in May 2007.

Jobcentres

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres he has visited since taking up his post. [206268]

Mrs. McGuire: Since taking up post on the 24 January 2008, the Secretary of State has visited three jobcentres.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many additional Pathways to Work placements he intends to provide in each year between 2010 and 2013. [204205]

Mr. Timms: From October 2008 all new employment and support allowance claimants in the Work Related Activity Group will go through Pathways to Work, and existing customers will have access on a voluntary basis. We do not expect the application of the work capability assessment from 2010 to 2013 to existing incapacity benefits recipients to make a significant difference to the numbers coming forward voluntarily for help.

Social Security Benefits: Care Homes

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of means-tested benefits for residents of *(a)* residential and *(b)* nursing homes in 2008-09. [206367]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information as requested is not available. We estimate that in 2006-07 around £370 million of income-related benefits were paid to people in residential care and nursing homes.

Notes:

1. Forecast expenditure data do not separately identify people in residential and nursing homes, so the most recent available full year data are 2006-07.

2. The system flag used to record if someone is in a care home does not distinguish between residential or nursing homes.

Source:

DWP accounting and statistical data.

Social Security Benefits: Compensation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the largest single consolatory payment to an individual by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Child Support Agency, *(c)* Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus, *(d)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(e)* the Pension Service, *(f)* the Rent Service and *(g)* the Debt Management Service was in each year since 1997. [205477]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department is focused on providing high standards of customer service and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of any customer complaints. In the event that departmental error or delay may have an adverse effect on a customer, the Department operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress.

The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Largest single consolatory payment to an individual

	£
CSA	
2007-08	2,000
2006-07	1,000
2005-06	1,500
2004-05	1,000
2003-04	500
2002-03	1,550
JCP	
2007-08	1,050
2006-07	800
2005-06	3,000
2004-05	2,000
2003-04	2,000
DCS	
2007-08	2,000
2006-07	500
TPS	
2007-08	1,250
2006-07	500
2005-06	500
2004-05	600
2003-04	500

Notes:

1. DWP's customers interact with the Department through its agencies/businesses and any consolatory payments are made at the agency/business level, rather than centrally.

2. DCS only retain readily available information for the previous two years on their special payments database. Information prior to this period is deleted on an ongoing basis. The SPEC forms (the individual special payment decision and authorisation forms) for individual cases are retained for a longer period but are kept at a remote storage centre. To retrieve these and then attempt to provide the information required to answer the PQ could be done only at disproportionate cost.

3. DCS do retain overall category statistics for each month but not the individual case breakdown that is being asked for.

4. The Pension Service figures are only available from 1 November 2003 when the new system was installed. We do not have access to any earlier information.

5. Debt Management is not an executive agency of DWP. A consolatory payment awarded because of error by Debt Management is paid by Jobcentre Plus.

6. The Rent Service (TRS) was formed in October 1999 as an executive agency of the Department of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. TRS became an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001. The Rent Service has not made any consolatory payments in the period concerned.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place to ensure that all his Department's offices are informed of recorded disability needs of their customers; and if he will make a statement. [205247]

Mrs. McGuire: Wherever possible we try to ensure that the needs of disabled customers are met. For example, in Jobcentre Plus if a customer states that they have a disability or health problem, with their permission, this information is recorded on a computer system. An enhancement to IT systems that support disability living allowance and attendance allowance benefit claims from customers allows Pension, Disability and Carer's Service staff to record a customer's preferred method of communication. Our current IT systems do not allow recorded information on a customer's disability needs to be shared across the different parts of the Department.

The Department for Work and Pension's Three Year Plan sets out the intention during 2008-11 to identify further opportunities to develop new processes to meet the accessibility needs of our customers so that they are able to receive the services appropriate to their needs. This will also ensure that our businesses across the Department are able to collect, share and act upon information about a customer's additional requirements.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of expenditure on *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* jobseekers allowance, *(d)* incapacity benefit and *(e)* income support in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms in each year since 1997. [203287]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2205-06W, to the hon. Member for Hertsmere, (Mr. Clappison) from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on unemployment: young people, what assessment he has made of the reasons for *(a)* the fall in the employment rate of UK nationals and *(b)* the fall in the level of unemployment of UK nationals; and if he will make a statement. [205092]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* The employment rate of UK nationals in the first quarter of 2008 was 75.1 per cent., a 0.4 percentage point rise on the same period in 2007 and 2.3 percentage points higher than in the first quarter of 1997.

The ILO unemployment rate for UK nationals fell by 0.3 percentage points, to 5.0 per cent., in the year to the first quarter of 2008, and is down from 7.2 per cent. in the same quarter of 1997.

The improvement in the labour market position of UK nationals reflects a combination of stable economic growth, a flexible and dynamic labour market in which new job opportunities are coming up all the time, and active labour market policies which have helped jobless individuals, particularly the most disadvantaged, to move back into the labour market and from there into work.

The position of young people is affected by the interaction between the labour market and the education system, with more people now staying on in education than 10 years ago. For UK nationals aged under 25 who have left full-time education, the employment rate was 74.3 per cent. in the first quarter of 2008, up 0.6 percentage points over the last year but 0.2 percentage points lower than in the same quarter of 1997. The ILO unemployment rate for UK nationals aged under 25 who have left full-time education, in the first quarter of 2008 was 12.9 per cent., down from 13.6 per cent. in the first quarter of 2007 and 14.3 per cent. in the first quarter of 1997.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bombs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to hold discussions with his *(a)* US, *(b)* Russian, *(c)* Chinese and *(d)* Indian counterparts on the Dublin Convention on cluster munitions. [210165]

Dr. Howells: We are in regular contact with these and other countries on the issue of cluster munitions. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 769, we will be working to promote the widest possible support for the future convention on cluster munitions, the text of which was adopted at Dublin on 30 May, with a view to its early entry into force and eventual universalisation.

We are also continuing to take forward work on cluster munitions within the UN framework of the convention on certain conventional weapons, in which all these countries participate, with a view to it adopting a legally-binding instrument addressing the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions in 2008.

British Council: Languages

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many teachers of *(a)* English and *(b)* Welsh were employed by the British Council in each country outside the UK, over the last five years. [206869]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* The table shows the number of teachers employed by the British Council over the last five years. Providing a breakdown by country could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. These data do not include casual staff teachers employed by the British Council at various times during the year.

	Number of teachers employed by the British Council
2007-08	1,825
2006-07	1,809
2005-06	1,678
2004-05	1,700
2003-04	1,700

The British Council responds to the considerable global demand for English and supports many English language providers. There is limited demand outside the UK for Welsh language teaching, but where the opportunity does arise for the teaching of the Welsh language, the British Council responds. For example, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly, the British Council provides up to three Welsh language teachers to Patagonia per year. 25 local tutors have been trained to teach Welsh.

Burma: Constitutions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the conditions under which the 10 May 2008 constitutional referendum in Burma was held; and if he will make a statement. [207807]

David Miliband: It is an indictment of the regime that they chose to go ahead with their flawed constitutional referendum at a time when hundreds of thousands of Burma's citizens were suffering without food, clean water or shelter in the Irrawaddy Delta. The political situation in Burma precludes a free and fair vote. Fundamental rights and freedoms are completely absent and the democratic opposition is persecuted—its leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, are locked up and its supporters live in fear of detention and violence. The referendum itself was conducted in an atmosphere of intimidation, where criticism of the process was punishable by long prison sentences. We also have serious doubts about the secrecy of voting. The results, a turnout of 98 per cent. (including those areas hit by the cyclone) and a 'yes' vote of over 92 per cent, lack all credibility.

The Government will continue its work towards an inclusive transition to democracy in Burma including engagement of EU member states and the UN.

China: Olympic Games

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of countries that plan to boycott the Beijing Olympics in protest at the situation in *(a)* Tibet and *(b)* Darfur. [208885]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no reports that any country plans to boycott the 2008 Beijing Olympics in protest at the situations in Tibet and Darfur.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of hiring Jonathan Sumption QC in relation to his work for the Department on the legal proceedings brought by Mr Stuart Wheeler. [207716]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* As with all litigation, costs will depend on a number of factors including the length of the case. The Government always ensure that they are represented at the appropriate level and secure an hourly rate which represents value for money for the tax payer. The Government are very confident of the strength of their case and, in responding to this action, will apply to recover their costs from the applicant.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount his Department will pay to lawyers defending the legal proceedings brought by Mr Stuart Wheeler. [207718]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to his parliamentary written question 207716.

Eritrea: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the human rights of Eritrean refugees imprisoned in Egypt; and if he will request the Egyptian authorities not to repatriate them to Eritrea. [210166]

Meg Munn: On 2 June, the UK National Director of Christian Solidarity Worldwide informed Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials of the possibility of Eritrean prisoners in Egypt being returned to Eritrea by the Government of Egypt.

The decision on whether to repatriate Eritrean prisoners to Eritrea would be governed by Egyptian law and is a decision for the Egyptian authorities.

Our ambassador in Asmara and FCO officials in London raise the issue of human rights with Eritrean officials and the Eritrean ambassador on a regular basis. Following up on human rights abuses in Eritrea is difficult. UK diplomats—like other diplomats—are only given intermittent access to follow up on reported abuses, and travel outside Asmara is restricted.

Ethiopia: Somalia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Ethiopian troops' withdrawal from Somalia; and what discussions he has had with that government on the subject. [206283]

Meg Munn: We have made clear to the Ethiopian Government, including at the highest levels, that we believe their troops should withdraw from Somalia as soon as is possible. The Ethiopian Government has indicated that they will withdraw from Somalia as soon as a credible replacement security force is established.

While Ethiopia's troops remain in Somalia, we urge them to use only appropriate force, adhere to international humanitarian law and respect human rights.

EU Action

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* EU partners and *(b)* the European Commission on whether the timing of policy announcements has been influenced by the timing of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [208818]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have regular contact with our EU counterparts in other member states and with the European Commission. These discussions include a wide range of bilateral, European and international issues.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208140]

Meg Munn: The quantity of food waste generated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Friends of UNAMID

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role of the Friends of UNAMID group is; and if he will make a statement. [209372]

Meg Munn: The Friends of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) group is an informal forum of countries, including the UK, that supports the efforts of the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations to deploy UNAMID. The group co-ordinates donor support for the training and equipping of countries contributing troops to UNAMID, including £4 million of UK support to African troop contributors.

Indonesia: State Visits

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters relating to West Papua he plans to discuss with the President of Indonesia on his forthcoming visit to London; and if he will make a statement. [209340]

Meg Munn: Unfortunately, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's visit to the UK has been postponed until further notice.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what events held in Israel to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of that State, *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have been invited; what invitations have been (i) accepted and (ii) declined; and if he will make a statement. [209089]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not receive any invitations to go to Israel to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister received an invitation but was unfortunately unable to attend. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv attended an official celebration in Israel on 8 May.

We do not hold a register of invitations issued to officials. To establish answers to all sections of part *(c)* of the hon. Member's question would therefore be resource intensive and incur a disproportionate cost.

Malawi: Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for the forthcoming vacancy for the post of High Commissioner to Malawi have been received; and how many have been received from officials of each Government department. [209807]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP has been nominated to be our next high commissioner in Lilongwe. The appointment will be made under the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991 and is in line with the Government's policy of recruiting appropriate skills and experience from all areas of public life.

Papua: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* Indonesian military operations in the highlands of West Papua, Jayawijaya Regency and *(b)* the effect of such operations on the civilian populations; whether he has made representations to the Indonesian Government on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [209046]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: Our embassy in Jakarta follows the situation in the Indonesian province of Papua closely and has sought confirmation of recent press reports of increased military activity in the Papuan highlands. Human rights activists and local church organisations, based in Wamena, have advised our embassy that these reports are unfounded.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on violence occurring at Abyei, Sudan; if he will take steps to encourage mediation between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on this matter; what reports he has received on how this conflict impacts on the wealth-sharing arrangements under the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; what assessment he has made of the effect on the Abyei Border Commission's recommendations; and if he will put pressure on both sides to come to an agreement over the Commission's report. [207852]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]*: We have received reports that the clashes between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, local militias and Sudanese armed forces of 14-21 May in Abyei resulted in the displacement of over 60,000 people from the town, and that a ceasefire of 18 May is now being respected.

We have urged both the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, including during the visit to Sudan of the permanent secretaries of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (18-21 May), to engage with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission as a suitable body to broker a resolution for the border disputes.

Full implementation of the Abyei Protocol of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement requires resolution of differences over wealth sharing and access to land. Our embassy in Khartoum, in close co-ordination with key partners, continues to apply pressure to both sides to resolve them.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, what progress has been made in appointing a Joint Chief Mediator; what the mandate of the mediator will be; and when he or she is expected to be in post. [209359]

Meg Munn: We are pressing the UN and the African Union (AU) to appoint a joint UN-AU chief mediator for the Darfur political process. We would expect that the chief mediator would be responsible for the mediation between the government of Sudan and the rebels.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the UN Secretary General's report of 9 May 2008, S/2008/304, what progress has been made by the Joint UN-AU hybrid force for Darfur in establishing regular contact with rebel movements to address security challenges in Darfur. [209373]

Meg Munn: We understand that the UN-African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Darfur, in coordination with the UN-AU Special Envoys for the Darfur political process and representatives of UN agencies, meets regularly with rebel movements and other key parties in Darfur to discuss security matters, including civilian protection and humanitarian access.

Venezuela: Politics and Government

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of improper payments made by the government of Venezuela to the Belize Bank. [209223]

Dr. Howells: I am aware of media reports of on-going legal proceedings between the government of Belize and Belize Bank, regarding payments reportedly received from Venezuela. This is a matter between the Belizean entities concerned.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to members of the African Union on the fair and free running of the forthcoming presidential elections in Zimbabwe. [208456]

Meg Munn: Both my the hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, are in regular contact with African Union (AU) leaders and foreign ministers to discuss the situation in Zimbabwe and, in particular, the conditions for the presidential run-off election on 27 June. Our embassies and high commissions in Africa have also reminded AU governments of our concerns and emphasised the need for the timely deployment of sufficient numbers of AU observers.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what technical assistance the Government *(a)* have offered and *(b)* propose to offer to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission in relation to recent and forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [209371]

Meg Munn: The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has made no request for assistance. Our efforts have focused on urging the Southern African Development Community and African Union leaders, and others in the wider international community, to deploy observers in advance of the second round of the presidential election. These observers should be provided in sufficient numbers, and as soon as possible. Once deployed, we will press for all observer teams and missions to fully co-ordinate their efforts and include contact with and scrutiny of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

Zimbabwe: Travel Restrictions

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent dicussions he has had with international counterparts on the restrictions on international travel upon Robert Mugabe and other members of the government of Zimbabwe. [208453]

Meg Munn: It was agreed at the meeting of the Council of the EU on 18 February to renew the common position on Zimbabwe for a further 12 months. The effect of this is to extend the duration of the EU's targeted measures, which include a travel ban on President Mugabe and 130 other Zimbabwean citizens.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Childbirth: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many babies were born at *(a)* Hemel Hempstead hospital and *(b)* Watford hospital in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency of residence of the mother. [210158]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many babies were born at (a) Hemel Hempstead Hospital and (b) Watford Hospital in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency of residency of mother. I am replying in her absence. (210158).

The table attached provides the number of live births for (a) Hemel Hempstead hospital, and (b) Watford hospital, by parliamentary constituency of mother's usual residence, 2004 to 2006 (the latest year available). There were no births recorded at Hemel Hempstead hospital in2006.

Table 1: Number of live births for Hemel Hempstead hospital and Watford hospital[1], by parliamentary constituency of mother's usual residence[2,3], 2004 to 2006

Live births

Hospital	*Parliamentary constituency*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hemel Hempstead	Hemel Hempstead	201	185	0
	St. Albans	74	98	0
	South West Hertfordshire	48	48	0
	Hitchin and Haspenden	26	37	0
	Other	25	26	0
	Total	374	394	0

Table 1. Number of live births for Hemel Hempstead hospital and Watford hospital[1], by parliamentary constituency of mother's usual residence[2,3], 2004 to 2006

Live births

Hospital	*Parliamentary constituency*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Watford	Watford	1,372	1,338	1,370
	Hemel Hempstead	765	793	983
	St. Albans	707	748	858
	South West Hertfordshire	782	732	844
	Hertsmere	513	536	496
	Harrow West	113	124	162
	Harrow East	111	136	144
	Ruislip-Northwood	134	132	134
	Hitchin and Harpenden	93	88	128
	Hendon	68	81	80
	Chesham and Amersham	22	18	25
	Finchley and Golders Green	7	12	10
	Brent North	10	15	9
	Buckingham	7	4	8
	South West Bedfordshire	14	6	6
	Welwyn Hatfield	5	11	6
	Luton South	3	4	5
	Beaconsfield	6	5	4
	Uxbridge	8	3	4
	Other	44	36	54
	Total	4,784	4,822	5,330

[1] 'Hemel Hempstead hospital' includes Hemel Hempstead General Hospital and Hemel Hempstead General hospital maternity wing. 'Watford hospital' includes Watford General hospital and Watford General hospital maternity wing.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008. Figures are for mothers usually resident in England and Wales.

[3] Parliamentary constituencies were aggregated to the 'other' category when there were fewer than three live births reported for any year, with the exception of parliamentary constituencies for Hemel Hempstead hospital,2006. There were 16 parliamentary constituencies in the 'other' category for Hemel Hempstead hospital, and 32for Watford hospital.

Civil Partners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average difference in age was between *(a)* male and *(b)* female civil partners in each period for which data is available. [208785]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 11 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average difference in age was between (a) male and (b) female civil partners in each period for which data is available. (208785)

Based on registration data collected in England and Wales, in 2006 the average (mean) age gap between male partners was 8 years compared with 6 years for female partners.

Marriage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average difference in age between men and women at marriage was in each year since 1978. [208786]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average difference in age between men and women at marriage was in each year since 1978. (208786)

Marital age difference has been defined as husband's age minus wife's age. Mean marital age differences for England and Wales between 1978 and 2005 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Mean marital age differences in England and Wales

Marriage year	*Mean age difference (years)*
1978	2.8
1979	2.7
1980	2.7
1981	2.8
1982	2.8
1983	2.8
1984	2.8
1985	2.7
1986	2.7
1987	2.6
1988	2.6
1989	2.6
1990	2.5
1991	2.5
1992	2.5
1993	2.5
1994	2.5
1995	2.5
1996	2.5
1997	2.5
1998	2.6
1999	2.6
2000	2.6
2001	2.6
2002	2.7
2003	2.7
2004	2.7
2005	2.7

Source:
Registration data

Taxation: Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of table 14A from the Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, broken down by the age of the household reference person in five year bands from the ages of 20 to 80 rather than by household income deciles for the current year, for *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 1995 and *(c)* 1990. [208787]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking if a copy of table 14A from the Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, broken down by the age of the household reference person in five year bands from the ages of 20 to 80 rather than by household income deciles for the current year, for (a) 2000, (b) 1995 and (c) 1990 can be placed in the House of Commons Library. I am replying in her absence. (208787)

The table requested is provided here for the years 2005/06, 2000/01, 1995/96. Comparable data for 1990/91 are not available. These tables will also be provided to the House of Commons Library.

Average incomes, taxes and benefits have been presented with households grouped in five year bands according to age of the household reference person (HRP). To ensure that all households are classified, an age group for households where the HRP is aged 80 or over has been included. Households where the HRP is under 20 (of which there are relatively few) are classified in the same group as those where the HRP is aged 20 to 24.

The concept of HRP was adopted on all government surveys from 2001/02, replacing head of household. Therefore in the tables for the years 2000/01 and 1995/96 head of household is used instead of HRP.

TREASURY

Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much households headed by 25 year olds earned as a proportion of the earnings of households headed by people aged 50 to 60 years in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1985, *(c)* 1990, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 2000, *(f)* 2005 and *(g)* 2008. [208790]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how much households headed by 25 year-olds earned as a proportion of the earnings of households headed by people aged 50 to 60 years in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1985, *(c)* 1990, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 2000, *(f)* 2005 and *(g)* 2008. I am replying in her absence. (208790)

The table provided shows average household wages and salaries for two age bands (under 30 years old and 50 to 64 years old). Data covering ages 25 years' old and 50 to 60 years' old are not readily available. In addition the latest year for which data are available is 2006.

From 2001-02, the concept of 'Household Reference Person' (HRP) was adopted on all government surveys in place of head of household. The table is therefore presented by 'Head of household' for the years 1980 to 2000/01 and HRP for the years 2005-06 and 2006.

The information in this response is based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which has a sample size of approximately 7,000 households. When breaking down this sample into age bands the sub-samples become quite small. For example in 2006, the age group 'under 30 years group' is based on a relatively small sub-sample of around 600 households, while the 650 to 64 years' group is based on 1,700 households. With such small sample sizes caution should be exercised when drawing any conclusions from this time series.

Average household earnings by households headed by age groups under 30 years and 50 to 64 years[1, 2, 3]: United Kingdom, 1980 to 2006[4]

Wages and salaries (£ per week[5])

	Under 30 years	*50 to 64 years*	*Earnings ratio of under 30 group to 50 to 64 age group*
1980	115	128	0.90
1985	153	158	0.97
1990	243	232	1.05
1995-96	260	245	1.06
2000-01	403	353	1.14
2005-06	455	439	1.03
2006	472	485	0.97

[1] The Family Expenditure Survey was replaced by the Expenditure and Food Survey in 2001-02.

[2] Head of Household was replaced by Household Reference Person (HRP) in 2001-02. The HRP is largely determined by who owns or is responsible for the household accommodation, whereas in the case of a couple, the head of household was always the husband.

[3] From 2000-01 estimates in this table are based on weighted data, whereas estimates before this are not.

[4] From 1957 to 1993 data were collected on a calendar year basis and then from 1994-95 to 2005-06 on a financial year basis. In 2006 the Expenditure and Food Survey was collected on a calendar year basis.

[5] *Figures rounded to nearest pound*

Source:

Family Spending, Office for National Statistics

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the removal of the 10 pence income tax rate. [209878]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor receives a wide range of representations on many different issues.

On 13 May he announced an increase in the individual personal tax allowance by £600 to £6,035 for this financial year, benefiting all basic-rate taxpayers under 65 and removing 600,000 low-income individuals from tax. Around 22 million basic-rate taxpayers will gain an additional £120 this year, fully compensating 80 per cent. of households that lose from the Budget 2007 reforms, with the remaining 1.1 million households seeing their loss at least halved.

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how arrangements for employers to pay minimum wage arrears are established and monitored; and if he will make a statement. [203863]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC have a clearly defined process for monitoring the payment of identified arrears to workers. National minimum wage compliance officers send letters to any workers for whom they identify arrears, advising them of the amount due to them and asking them to contact the officer by a due date if the employer does not make payment. An officer will also ask the employer to provide evidence of payment of arrears to workers. Where it is evident that an employer has not made payment to all workers to whom arrears are due, the officer will pursue this with the employer. HMRC remain committed to ensuring that workers receive what they are due and the proposals in the Employment Bill will improve and strengthen the enforcement regime of the minimum wage.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many employers have accrued minimum wage arrears in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203866]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, how many enforcement notices have been issued to employers who have accrued arrears through failure to pay the minimum wage in each year since the minimum wage was introduced, broken down by region. [203870]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hereditaments in England have been eligible to receive the Small Business Rate Relief in each of the last three financial years. [209662]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Local Government to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Revenue and Customs: Aylesbury

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs pay in rent at Kingfisher House, Aylesbury, *(a)* overall and *(b)* per square metre. [209874]

Jane Kennedy: The majority of HMRC offices, including Kingfisher House, Aylesbury, are held under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts which differ from traditional lease arrangements. An all-inclusive facility price is paid for the provision of serviced accommodation and a standard rent is not paid.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what prosecutions in relation to which proceedings have been completed were brought for the *(a)* sale, *(b)* marketing and *(c)* operation of illegal schemes purporting to operate as tax avoidance schemes in each of the last five years. [209761]

Jane Kennedy: Historical records kept in complex fraud cases did not separately identify whether the frauds investigated involved the operation of illegal schemes purporting to operate as tax avoidance schemes. It has been established however that there are currently six such schemes under active criminal investigation. As these are ongoing criminal investigation cases it is not appropriate to provide any additional details at this time.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information he holds on the liability for UK tax of the organisations represented on the business-government forum on tax. [209760]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC receives and holds broadly the same information about all companies that are liable to taxes and duties in the United Kingdom. HMRC has a duty to maintain taxpayer confidentiality, and it is not therefore possible to release information about the individual tax affairs of particular companies.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of unclaimed tax credits was in each of the last three years. [209754]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the amounts unclaimed for child and working tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in Table 1 in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credit take-up rates", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

These are the latest years for which estimates are currently available.

JUSTICE

Children: Death

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will put in place measures to ensure that *(a)* coroners and *(b)* local safeguarding children boards work together more effectively on investigating child deaths. [209781]

Bridget Prentice: The Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008 will put measures in place to allow coroners and local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) to work together to enable LSCBs to meet their obligation to conduct child death reviews and to fulfil their statutory obligations more generally. A new rule, which I plan to lay in Parliament later this month, will (i) require coroners to notify LSCBs of a child death and (ii) enable coroners to share relevant information (such as reports from post-mortem examinations and documents given in evidence at an inquest) with LSCBs.

Dangerous Driving: Sentencing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sentencing guidelines apply to the offence of causing death by careless driving. [209668]

Mr. Hanson: Sentencing guidelines for the offence of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink and drugs are contained in the Court of Appeal judgment R *v.* Cooksley and others (2004)1 Cr App R (S) 1, as modified by R *v.* Richardson and others (2006) EWCA Crim 3186. The Sentencing Guidelines

Council is expected to publish a definitive guideline on causing death by driving offences shortly. We will commence the new offence of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving after the guideline has been published.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were for the breeding of each prohibited breed of dog in each of the last five years. [210052]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the offence breeding or breeding from a fighting dog in England and Wales for the years 2002 to 2006 is in the following table.

The table gives the numbers of successful prosecutions in respect of all four prohibited types of dog. Figures on prosecutions do not differentiate between the different types.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the offence breeding or breeding from a fighting dog in England and Wales, 2002-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
2002	3
2003	2
2004	14
2005	1
2006	1

[1] The data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] The data cover the following statute: Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a).

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The figures in this table give the numbers of successful prosecutions (i.e. convictions) in respect of all four prohibited types of dog.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Domestic Violence: Injunctions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injunctions against domestic violence perpetrators have been *(a)* made by courts and *(b)* breached under the provisions of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and how many breaches have led to a term of imprisonment. [209667]

Bridget Prentice: Between 1 July 2007—when breach of a non-molestation order became a criminal offence—and 31 March 2008, 17,790 non-molestation orders were granted in the county courts across England and Wales.

Although there is capacity to record breach data in the courts, we suspect cases are not being recorded consistently in all courts.

Where breach is recorded, quality checks have revealed large variations in the way they are recorded therefore it would not be appropriate to publish the limited information available. The implementation of the Libra IT system in the magistrates courts by the end of 2009 will provide a further opportunity to quality assure data. Statistics on breaches will be published as soon as sufficient improvements have been made.

Epilepsy: Death

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will require *(a)* medical advisers, *(b)* coroners and *(c)* other relevant professionals to undertake specific training in the (i) investigation, (ii) certification and (iii) holding of inquests into sudden unexplained deaths in epilepsy and other epilepsy-related deaths. [209780]

Bridget Prentice: Coroners induction and continuation courses include training on investigation, coroners certificates and holding inquests into sudden unexplained deaths. This includes a course on medicine and a session on the brain and nervous system, which touches on a range of medical conditions such as epilepsy.

Under proposed reforms to the coroner system, the new post of chief coroner will have a responsibility to prepare and maintain appropriate arrangements for the training and guidance of coroners and those who work with them. He or she will be supported by a national medical advisor who will identify specific training needs in relation to medical issues. The national medical adviser to the chief coroner is likely to work closely with the chief medical officer in relation to the training required by the new medical examiners to be established as part of the Government's reform of the death certification system. The main purpose of medical examiners will be to provide independent scrutiny of the causes of death given by doctors on death certificates when cases are not referred to the coroner. Medical examiners will also provide general medical advice to coroners.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will issue guidance to ensure that people bereaved as a result of sudden unexplained deaths in epilepsy are provided with details of Epilepsy Bereaved and other relevant support services. [209782]

Bridget Prentice: A draft charter for bereaved people, which will be enabled by the Coroners and Death Certification Bill, will require coroners, among other matters, to maintain and provide information to families on the main local and national voluntary bodies and support groups which offer help or support to people who are bereaved. This will include bereavement as a result of particular types of incidents or circumstances, such as sudden and unexpected death from epilepsy. I will be issuing a revised draft of the charter for comment this month. In the current system, several coroners already provide this information.

Juries: Mentally Ill

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the exclusion of people receiving treatment for a mental illness from undertaking jury service, with particular reference to its compatibility with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [209499]

Maria Eagle: In the past 12 months we have received one representation on the issue of mental health and eligibility for jury service. No reference was made in that representation to the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Legal Aid: Separation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was provided in legal aid to those involved in disputes arising from separating cohabiting couples in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [208412]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to answer the question as the Legal Services Commission (LSC) records information about the type of case rather than the type of client. Cohabiting couples who separate may be involved in a variety of case types recorded by the LSC. These include financial provision for a child, proceedings to establish the extent of ownership in property and advice on relationship breakdown, as well as cases involving parentage, parental responsibility, child residence and contact.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support provided to prisoners in the high security estate with regard to relationships with partners and close family members; and if he will make a statement. [209108]

Maria Eagle: There has been no specific assessment of support provided in the high security estate. All prisons are required to enable prisoners to maintain contact with partners and other family members. Prisoners are encouraged to do so by means of social visits, use of the telephone and through correspondence. Prisons may also provide special family day visits enabling longer periods of contact between the prisoner and his family, including some high security prisons.

In the National Commissioning Plan 2008-09 for the High Security Estate, interventions to help prisoners improve their relationships is identified as an area for improvement within the estate and is one of the four commissioning priorities where we are seeking to develop capacity. A copy of the plan can be downloaded at:

http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk/newspublicationsevents/publications/strategy/NCP_08?vie=Standard&pubID=530346

Prisoners: Childbirth

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many current prisoners have given birth while serving their prison sentence; and if he will make a statement. [209119]

Maria Eagle: The numbers of prisoners who have given birth whiles serving their custodial sentence since April 2005, when the Prison Service began collecting figures centrally, are as follows:

April to March each year	*Number*
2007-08	102
2006-07	99
2005-06	106

Information is not kept centrally on numbers of current prisoners who have given birth while serving their custodial sentence.

The Government are seeking to encourage greater use of community sentences for women offenders where possible. Where a custodial sentence has been given, specific provision is made for those women who are pregnant or have babies with them in prison.

Prisoners: Mothers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many female prisoners are mothers to children under the age of 18 years. [209091]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service does not routinely keep information on the number of prisoners that have dependent children. However, a resettlement survey commissioned by the Prison Service in 2003-04 showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

The Government are seeking to encourage greater use of community sentences for women offenders where possible. For those women committed to custody, the Prison Service has in place a range of measures such as extended children's visits to support their ties with their families and children. As part of the Family Pathfinder Programme, better ways are being explored to meet a child's needs when a parent goes to prison.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 845-7W, on young offender institutions: mental health services, how many young people have been transferred from Parc Prison to specialist NHS secure hospital units for under 18-year-olds in England. [210056]

Maria Eagle: In the last two years there have been 85 transfers from the young people's secure estate to specialist mental health units in England. No young people have transferred to NHS secure hospital units from HMP Parc during this time.

The National Commissioning Group (NCG) is responsible for commissioning a range of specialist services including the national in-patient Secure

Forensic Mental Health Service for Young People, which oversees in-patient treatment and referrals to seven specialist units for under 18s in England.

Separate commissioning procedures exist for under 18s residing in HMYOI Parc. These procedures are governed by the Welsh Assembly Government/NHS Wales.

Source: Mental Health Unit, Ministry of Justice.

Young Offenders: Secure Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many beds there were in England and Wales in medium secure hospital units for young offenders with learning disabilities in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; how many of those beds were occupied in each of the last 36 months for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of the match between provision and demand; and if he will make a statement. [209699]

Maria Eagle: This information is not held centrally. The National Commissioning Group (NCG) is responsible for commissioning a range of specialist health services including the national in-patient Secure Forensic Mental Health Service for Young People, which in turn oversees in-patient treatment and referrals to seven specialist national health service secure hospital units for under-18s throughout England.

These seven units provide a range of mental health and learning disability treatments and contain a total of 105 beds. Of these, 17 beds are targeted for young people with learning disabilities. These are situated at Malcolm Arnold House in Northampton and the Roycroft Unit in Newcastle.

A needs assessment project undertaken in 2004, suggested that between 15 and 33 per cent. of young people referred to the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group (now NCG) funded units had some level of intellectual disability. This equated to a minimum number of eight referrals a year and a maximum of 17. The current level of referrals for learning disability meets the quota of available beds. During times of additional demand, the NCG has the capacity to commission additional beds from the private sector in England.

Health commissioning responsibilities for Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government/NHS Wales.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Disabled: ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* proportion of (i) non-disabled and (ii) disabled people with computer qualifications. [206605]

Bill Rammell: The information is not available in the form requested. The following table shows Labour Force Survey estimates of the numbers and proportions who hold a degree in computing or whose highest full vocational qualification at level 2 or above is in computing.

Computing qualifications by whether or not-disabled[1]

	Disabled		Not disabled		Total	
	Number (Thousand)	Percentage of total population	Number (Thousand)	Percentage of total population	Number (Thousand)	Percentage of total population
Holds computer qualification at degree level	33	0.6	259	1.1	292	1.0
Holds vocational computing qualification at full level 2 or above	84	1.5	328	1.4	412	1.4
Holds computer qualification at either degree level or vocational full level 2 or higher[2]	113	2.0	561	2.3	674	2.3
Total population females aged 19-59, males aged 19-64	5,600		24,000		29,601	

[1] The definition of disability is based on the respondent's self-assessment of whether they have a long term health problem or disability.

[2] A small number of people hold qualifications at both degree level and vocational full NVQ level 2 or higher so the total is slightly less than the sum of the parts.

Note:

Population aged 19-59 for females and 19-64 for males.

Source:

England, Quarter 4, 2007, Labour Force Survey

Foundation Degrees: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* 18 to 20-year-olds and *(b)* persons aged 21 years and over with A levels, Vocational A levels, NVQ Level 3, advanced apprenticeships or other qualifications who began courses for (i) full-time and (ii) part-time foundation degrees in the latest period for which figures are available. [209788]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

UK domiciled entrants to foundation degree courses by age and prior qualification — UK higher education institutions academic year 2006/07

	Age as at 31 August in reporting year			
	Full-time		Part-time	
Highest qualification on entry	*18 to 20*	*21 and over*	*18 to 20*	*21 and over*
Any combinations of GCE 'A'/SCE 'Higher' and GNVQ/GSVQ or NVQ/SVQ at level 3	3,605	1,680	385	2,380
Of which:				
Holding one or more GCE 'A' level[1]	2,125	275	80	130
Holding one or more Vocational 'A' level[1]	630	40	15	10
Other level 3 qualifications	1,720	1,200	180	890
Other qualifications	1,635	4,235	510	6,965

[1] These rows may contain an element of double counting, as entrants may hold 'A' levels in addition to Vocational 'A' levels

Note:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis, and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in each London borough were offered a university place in each of the last 10 years. [210278]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not collect information from universities on the offers they make to students. The latest available information on entrants to Higher Education courses is shown in the following table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants[1] to UK Higher Education Institutions[2] by London local authority[3] area — academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Academic year[4]									
Local authority	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
City of London	85	195	220	205	190	235	215	250	180	200
Camden	2,870	3,285	3,420	3,605	3,560	3,880	3,995	4,070	3,960	3,810
Greenwich	2,120	465	2,570	2,775	3,125	3,315	3,515	3,620	3,590	3,565
Hackney	2,490	3,005	3,265	3,330	3,615	3,860	3,980	4,265	4,200	4,200
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,810	2,030	2,260	2,345	2,365	2,550	2,725	2,705	2,740	2,560
Islington	2,280	2,975	3,035	3,300	3,230	3,525	3,695	3,780	3,630	3,625
Kensington and Chelsea	1,775	2,080	2,155	2,115	2,220	2,330	2,250	2,390	2,300	2,175
Lambeth	3,510	4,185	4,295	4,415	4,745	5,010	5,005	5,240	5,185	5,080
Lewisham	3,080	3,760	3,925	4,005	4,395	4,625	4,725	4,915	4,810	4,825
Southwark	3,430	4,140	4,140	4,300	4,605	4,820	5,320	5,390	5,075	4,955
Tower Hamlets	1,645	2,115	2,345	2,560	2,795	3,210	3,270	3,420	3,420	3,425
Wandsworth	3,130	3,880	3,905	3,830	3,940	4,450	4,725	4,685	4,505	4,535
Westminster	2,305	2,820	2,940	2,960	3,115	3,455	3,400	3,595	3,365	3,340
Barking and Dagenham	765	1,075	1,005	1,040	1,250	1,605	1,630	1,815	1,875	1,905
Barnet	4,380	5,080	5,320	5,430	5,510	6,110	5,830	6,175	6,195	5,945
Bexley	1,510	1,805	1,755	2,015	2,135	2,185	2,410	2,485	2,610	2,575
Brent	3,660	4,430	4,450	4,715	4,830	4,945	4,890	5,005	4,815	4,725
Bromley	2,690	3,120	3,340	3,435	3,505	3,850	4,000	4,150	4,000	3,910
Croydon	2,870	3,585	3,755	4,115	4,115	4,415	4,580	4,675	4,800	4,765
Ealing	3,715	4,670	4,880	5,030	5,265	5,420	5,280	5,500	5,405	5,355
Enfield	3,125	3,600	3,790	3,920	4,100	4,340	4,420	4,660	4,695	4,480
Haringey	3,265	4,000	3,970	4,025	4,060	4,385	4,340	4,515	4,430	4,320
Harrow	2,820	3,330	3,575	3,590	3,740	3,995	3,950	4,090	3,985	3,895
Havering	1,335	1,730	1,630	1,640	1,730	1,930	2,035	2,420	2,240	2,120
Hillingdon	1,925	2,405	2,650	2,790	2,840	3,095	3,125	3,175	3,265	3,240
Hounslow	2,070	2,670	2,845	3,015	2,940	3,060	3,150	3,245	3,255	3,210
Kingston upon Thames	1,215	1,895	1,950	2,010	2,165	2,405	2,460	2,525	2,585	2,460
Merton	1,765	2,225	2,355	2,470	2,565	2,760	2,825	2,870	2,840	2,770
Newham	2,660	3,210	3,415	3,525	3,960	4,400	4,355	4,410	4,465	4,540
Redbridge	2,685	3,340	3,270	3,375	3,865	4,160	4,105	4,120	4,255	4,255
Richmond upon Thames	1,830	2,405	2,485	2,385	2,540	2,645	2,760	3,050	2,965	2,895

Entrants[1] to UK Higher Education Institutions[2] by London local authority[3] area—academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Local authority	*Academic year*									
	1997/98	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Sutton	1,255	1,730	1,665	1,835	1,935	2,050	2,140	2,300	2,330	2,200
Waltham Forest	2,420	3,110	3,030	3,085	3,515	3,830	3,700	4,030	3,715	3,870

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant mode of study.

[2] Covers entrants to postgraduate and undergraduate HE level courses in UK Higher Education Institutions.

[3] London boroughs have been taken to be local authority areas. Students are allocated to local authority area by postcode; figures exclude students with missing or invalid postcodes.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Medicine

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which university medical schools admitted students aged under 21 years for training leading to qualifications as a doctor with less than the equivalent of *(a)* three Bs at A level, *(b)* three Cs at A level and *(c)* three Ds at A level; how many such students were admitted in each year since 2001; and which university medical schools plan to admit students under the auspices of the widening participation scheme. [207714]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* Several medical schools run schemes to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds, but data on admissions, costs and student outcomes for these schemes are not collected centrally.

Information on the pre-entry qualifications of students entering first degree courses in medicine is shown in Table 1. Comparable figures prior to the 2002-03 academic year are not available..

Table 1: UK Domiciled entrants aged under 21 years, to first degree courses in medicine, by qualifications on entry[1]—Based upon UCAS tariff score from A levels from students reporting A level as their highest qualification on entry, 2002/03 to 2006/07, English higher education institutions[2]

		Of which: those with scores equivalent to:		
Academic year	*Entrants with A levels as highest qualification on entry*	*Less than Bs[3]/300 tariff points*	*Less than 3 Cs[4]/240 tariff points*	*Less than 3 Ds/180 tariff points*
2002/03	3,550	130	55	20
2003/04	3,830	125	35	15
2004/05	4,165	95	45	10
2005/06	4,105	70	25	10
2006/07	3,960	75	30	20

[1] In 2002/03 the UCAS tariff replaced A level scores. The tariff covers a wider range of qualifications though it is

possible to identify those students with the tariff equivalent of 3 grade Bs (300 points), 3 grade Cs (240 points) or 3 grade Ds (180 points). However, tariff score contains an unlimited number of eligible qualifications, not just the student's best three A levels.

[2] Excluding the Open University.

[3] Including students with less than 3 Cs/240 tariff points and less than 3 Ds/180 tariff points.

[4] Including students with less than 3 Ds/180 tariff points.

Note:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Populations basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Sign Language: Training

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what reports he has received of the level of training of sign language interpreters in Wales; and if he will increase provision for sign language interpreters training in England. [209523]

Bill Rammell: The Department is not aware of any reports on the level of training of sign language interpreters in Wales.

The Department recognises the need for sign language interpreters. However, the Government are not the employer of British sign language professionals. FE Colleges were established as independent organisations following the enactment of the Further and Higher Education Act in 1992. As such they are responsible for their own HR arrangements, including recruitment and deployment of specialists such as sign language interpreters, and decisions on appropriate sign language training. Wider FE providers are also generally independent organisations, similarly responsible for their own HR arrangements. We expect all FE learning providers to organise their work force to meet local circumstances and learner and business needs.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many business registrations for value added tax there have been in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District, *(b)* Leeds West constituency area and *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside in each year since 2000. [209740]

Mr. McFadden: VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in Leeds metropolitan district, Leeds, West constituency and Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region are shown as follows for 2000 to 2006. Data for VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Number of new VAT registrations and VAT-registered businesses

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
New VAT registrations								
Leeds metropolitan district	1,945	1,835	1,955	2,095	2,040	1,965	2,030	
Leeds, West constituency	150	135	155	155	155	165	165	
Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region	12,005	11,665	12,440	13,840	13,060	12,935	12,900	
All VAT-registered businesses								
Leeds metropolitan district	17,880	18,025	18,065	18,145	18,510	18,780	19,180	19,565
Leeds, West constituency	1,355	1,400	1,415	1,440	1,470	1,515	1,575	1,645
Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region	125,110	126,470	127,305	128,680	132,005	134,515	137,195	139,970

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/uidex. htm

Although the number of new VAT registrations in each area has fluctuated between 2000 and 2006 the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased in all areas over the period. The stock of VAT registered businesses in the Leeds metropolitan district has increased by 1,685 (9 per cent.) between the start of 2000 and the start of 2007; in Leeds, West constituency there has been an increase of 290 (21 per cent.); and in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region there has been an increase of 14,860 (12 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Carbon Capture Storage

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department plans to spend on research and development on carbon capture storage technology between May 2008 and October 2014. [208485]

Malcolm Wicks: Carbon Capture and Storage research and development is supported under the Research Councils' Energy Programme and is a priority for the Technology Strategy Board. Carbon Capture and Storage technology is one of a number of areas which is being considered by the Energy Technologies Institute. Public sector funding for the Research Councils, Energy Technologies Institute and Technology Strategy Board is provided by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills.

In addition, BERR is committed to spending £2.2 million on the development of an Oxy-Fuel Combustion demonstration system during 2008 to 2010. The Government announced in the 2008 Budget that a new call for project proposals will be made shortly under the Environmental Transformation Fund which will include support for the development of component parts of Carbon Capture and Storage. In November 2007 the Government announced a competition for one of the world's first commercial-scale demonstrations of Carbon Capture and Storage Technology on a coal fired power plant. The project is scheduled for completion in 2014.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had on the regulatory framework of its carbon capture storage policy; and who will have responsibility for *(a)* storage and *(b)* potential liabilities under the policy. [208486]

Malcolm Wicks: We expect to consult shortly on the regulatory framework for carbon dioxide storage in the offshore area. This will include arrangements for storage and potential liabilities. Storage will be the responsibility of licensed operators, who will also be responsible for all liabilities during the entire period of their licence (including a period after the store has been closed to further injection of carbon dioxide, during which its behaviour will be closely monitored).

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the licensing regime in the North Sea on the Government's carbon capture storage policy. [208487]

Malcolm Wicks: Part 1, Chapter 3 of the Energy Bill provides for the storage of carbon dioxide in the UK offshore area, including the North Sea. We expect to consult shortly on the licensing regime that this legislation will make possible. The consultation will help us design licensing arrangements that will effectively interface with other uses of the offshore area, including the production of petroleum in the North Sea.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209428]

Mr. Thomas: Details are not held centrally as learning and development is devolved across the department. Individuals and their Line Managers identify learning and development needs, and the appropriate training to attend, over the course of the year.

Electricity: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from businesses about the implications of the change in the Government's policy on the introduction of electricity display devices; and what his estimate is of the costs to business of this decision. [209841]

Malcolm Wicks: *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The Government announced in April 2008 that it would reach a voluntary agreement with energy suppliers on how displays can be made available to customers in the short-to-medium term. Discussions with energy suppliers are ongoing. My Department has received some representations from individual consumers and from one environmental organisation about this decision, but none from businesses.

This decision should be considered in the context of a possible roll-out of smart metering to domestic consumers and small business customers. It is the Government's view that a display device should be provided with a smart meter in any such roll-out. We are continuing to assess the costs and benefits of a roll-out of smart metering and intend to take a decision as soon as possible after the second report from the Energy Demand Research Project.

Employment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had on protecting people in vulnerable employment; and if he will make a statement. [209801]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* I have frequent discussions about protecting people in vulnerable employment. In addition, the Vulnerable Worker Enforcement Forum has been meeting under my chairmanship to look at the nature of employment rights abuses, assess the effectiveness of the current enforcement arrangements, and identify possible improvements. A report on the Forum's work and the Government's conclusions will be published shortly.

Energy Supply: Trade Competitiveness

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department has issued to major energy suppliers on techniques used to encourage consumers to switch supplier; what recent representations he has received on the topic; and if he will make a statement. [208419]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The Government, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and Energywatch encourage customers to use the competitive market in gas and electricity supply, and promote access to that market.

Although it is for gas and electricity suppliers, like other private sector companies, to decide how to market services and products, at Ofgem's recent Fuel Poverty Summit, suppliers agreed to increase the transparency of their offers on their websites to facilitate the role of advice organisations, switching sites and other intermediaries. In addition, market leader switching sites providers agreed to provide telephone advice on tariffs to those who do not have internet access.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much in compensation payments former miners have received for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic bronchitis and emphysema in (i) Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, (ii) Barnsley and (iii) Doncaster since the compensation schemes started. [208964]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows how much compensation has been awarded to former miners for Vibration White Finger (VWF) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) as requested as at 1 June 2008.

£ million

	Total damages[1]		
	VWF	*COPD*	*Total*
Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency	60.0	57.0	117.0
Barnsley[2]	123.6	127.6	251.2
Doncaster[3]	66.1	54.0	120.1

[1] Total damages paid includes all damages paid on both settled and outstanding claims.

[2] Barnsley has been categorised on the Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, Barnsley West and Penistone constituency and Barnsley Central constituency.

[3] Doncaster has been categorised on the Doncaster Central constituency and Doncaster North constituency.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what changes *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are planned to be made by his Department to the planning requirements for the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; what his Department's plans to promote the programme are; and if he will make a statement. [208488]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government recently announced relaxed planning requirements for the majority of micro generation technologies, which came into effect on 6 April 2008. There is work outstanding on permitted development for micro wind and air source heat pumps (ASHP). As a result applicants to the Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP) are directed to the Energy Savings Trust website http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/generate_your_own_energy/planning_permission_for_renewable_energy_technologies/ where guidance of permitted development is set out for each technology.

The Government are working with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the Low Carbon Buildings programme household funding stream. To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants. Further details are available at www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk. BERR is working with EST on proposals to do further work with local authorities on promoting the programme to householders.

New Businesses: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many business start-ups took place in *(a)* the town of Aylesbury, *(b)* Aylesbury constituency, *(c)* Aylesbury Vale District, *(d)* Wycombe District and *(e)* Chiltern District in each of the last three years; [208580]

(2) how many business registrations for value added tax there were in *(a)* the town of Aylesbury, *(b)* Aylesbury constituency, *(c)* Aylesbury Vale District, *(d)* Wycombe District and *(e)* Chiltern District in each of the last three years. [208579]

Mr. Thomas: VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern districts and Aylesbury constituency are shown as follows for 2004 to 2006. Data for VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Number of new VAT registrations and VAT-registered businesses

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
New VAT registrations				
Aylesbury Vale district	705	715	740	
Chiltern district	420	425	440	
Wycombe district	695	670	695	
Aylesbury constituency	370	430	435	
All VAT-registered businesses				
Aylesbury Vale district	7,300	7,445	7,575	7,785
Chiltern district	4,735	4,785	4,855	4,950
Wycombe district	7,835	7,880	7,945	8,075
Aylesbury constituency	4,130	4,180	4,270	4,415

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of new VAT registrations in each area has fluctuated between 2004 and 2006 the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased in all areas over the period. The stock of VAT registered businesses in the Aylesbury Vale district has increased by 485 (7 per cent.) between the start of 2004 and the start of 2007; in Chiltern district there has been an increase of 215 (5 per cent.); in Wycombe district there has been an increase of 240 (3 per cent.); and in Aylesbury constituency there has been an increase of 285 (7 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006.

Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Post Offices: Cash Dispensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with banks on locating cash dispensers in post offices. [209840]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* This is a commercial and operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of post offices have been closed in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and (d) England and Wales since 1997. [209092]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations in Wales participated in consultations on closure of post offices. [209836]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* A list of respondents to the Government's national consultation on the post office network was published in the Government's response published on 17 May 2007 and is accessible on the Department's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39479.pdf.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* post offices within supermarkets and (b) stand-alone post offices have been chosen for closure; and what percentage this represents of each category of post office. [209837]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices in Bournemouth are being considered for closure under the Post Office Network Change Programme. [209902]

Mr. McFadden: I understand that Post Office Ltd plans to start local public consultation on any proposed post office closures in Bournemouth on 15 July.

Post Offices: Miserden

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons there is to be a further period of consultation on Miserden Post Office, with particular reference to proposals for outreach. [208994]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Standards

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance is issued to post offices on maximum waiting times at post office counters; what procedure is in place for complaints from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* members of the public about excessive waiting times; and if he will make a statement. [209914]

Mr. McFadden: Management of queuing times at post offices is an operational for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and I have asked Alan Cook, the Managing Director, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Complaints about queuing times can be made to POL by telephone on 08457 223344, online at

www.postoffice.co.uk

or in writing by freepost to Royal Mail Customer Services, Freepost RM1 1AA. If the response from POL is not considered to be satisfactory, then Postwatch, the statutory consumer body, can be contacted by telephone on 08456 013265 or in writing to Freepost, Postwatch or online at

www.postwatch.co.uk.

Postal Services: EU Law

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to implement Directive 2006/123/EC of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market; what estimate he has made of the number of services affected by implementation; what assessment he has made of the effect of implementation on *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* the Post Office; and what information he holds on the implementation of the directive in other EU member states, including (i) the date of implementation and (ii) the length of any derogation. [208626]

Mr. McFadden: The Government recently consulted on its proposals for implementing the services directive in the UK and intends to publish its response shortly. This response document will summarise views gathered from the consultation and set out the Government's latest implementation plans. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The directive applies to all service sectors except those specifically excluded. It is expected to produce substantial benefits to the UK economy of between £4-6 billion per year.

Postal services are within scope of the directive but there is a derogation for services of general interest in the postal sector from some of the directive's provisions.

A large-scale exercise is currently underway across Government to "screen" legislation and administrative requirements for compliance with the directive. The legislation governing Royal Mail and the Post Office is being examined as part of this exercise. Information on the regulatory regime that applies to postal services may need to be included in the point of single contact that the directive requires us to create.

The directive further requires member states to impose certain obligations on service providers, which includes Royal Mail and the Post Office. For example:

> Article 22 requires member states to ensure that service providers make certain information available to service recipients.
>
> Article 27 requires member states to take the general measures necessary to ensure that service providers supply contact details to which recipients can send a complaint or a request for information about the service provided, and that they respond to complaints within the shortest possible time and make their best efforts to find a satisfactory solution.
>
> Article 20 requires member states to ensure that the general conditions of access to a service made available by providers to the public at large do not discriminate against recipients based on their nationality or place of residence (although providers are able to retain differences in their service conditions where these differences are justified by objective criteria, such as differing prices for postage and packaging depending on where the client is located).

All member states are required to implement before 28 December 2009, are working to do so and meet regularly with each other and the commission to share information and best practice.

Redundancy Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the effectiveness and appropriateness of current UK statutory redundancy settlements. [209627]

Mr. McFadden: The current system for redundancy payments is working effectively.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress is being made by his Department in developing long-term synergies between wave, wind, solar and geothermal energy generation; and if he will make a statement. [208500]

Malcolm Wicks: Later this year we will consult on what more we should do, above and beyond current policies, to increase renewable energy use in the UK to meet our share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. This will include consideration of the long-term role that wave, wind, solar and geothermal generation can play in our energy mix.

Royal Mail: Crewe

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which will be lost as a result of the proposed closure of the Royal Mail sorting office in Crewe. [209402]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: I understand that a review of mail centres in the north-west has been conducted, but no decisions have as yet been taken. This is an operational matter for Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member, with further information.

Summertime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the dates on which daylight saving commences and finishes to fall more equally either side of the winter solstice. [209901]

Mr. McFadden: The start and end dates of summer time are harmonised across EC member states through a European Directive. The Directive stipulates that, in each member state, clocks are put forward annually by one hour for the period between the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October.

There are no plans to change the summer time arrangements at this time.

Tidal Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department is providing for the research and development of offshore tidal stream turbines in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [208499]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK has in place a comprehensive set of support measures, to assist and encourages the development of marine technologies.

The package of support measures we have put in place, includes the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) Supergen Marine programme, Carbon Trust funding, research funding from the Technology Strategy Board and the Energy Technologies Institute. BERR's £50 million Marine Renewables Deployment Fund, provides a package of measures central to which is a £42 million 'Wave and Tidal Stream Energy Demonstration Scheme'. We also support the European Marine Energy Centre wave and tidal stream test site in Orkney and have offered £4.5 million support to the proposed £28 million Wave Hub off the Cornish coast.

The aforementioned demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to supporting the development of this sector from R and D towards, the eventual commercialisation of tidal stream technology.

In addition through the Energy Bill we are banding the Renewables Obligation to provide additional support to foster the development of these emerging technologies, this would double the incentive available to the marine sector.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1763W, on tidal power: River Severn, which companies have been awarded the contracts for feasibility studies. [209442]

Malcolm Wicks: A consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff was awarded in April 2008 the contract to manage a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Severn Estuary. The consortium includes Black and Veatch, The Environment Council, Environ, ABPmer, HR Wallingford, Hartley Anderson, and George Corderoy.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) were also appointed to advise on how a Severn tidal power scheme could be financed and the potential ownership options and possible Government support mechanisms.

Further details of these contract awards can be found in the press release issued by my Department on 6 May 2008, which can be seen at

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/severntidalpower

HOME DEPARTMENT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) her Department and (ii) the agencies for which she is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [206799]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office HQ, Identity and Passport Service (IPS), and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not currently offer apprenticeship schemes.

The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) does offer apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships to its staff, however there are currently no reliable data collected on actual numbers of participants, as decisions on offering apprenticeships have up to recently been taken on a local basis and therefore not centrally recorded.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that applicants and their legal representatives are informed *(a)* that consideration has begun and *(b)* of the final decision in asylum cases considered under the Case Resolution Directorate without the need for a questionnaire; and if she will make a statement. [196098]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency is currently in discussion with stakeholders via the case resolution sub-group of the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum regarding the precise circumstances in which an applicant and their legal representatives will be contacted.

I will write to the hon. Member with further details in due course.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on officials or representatives of foreign governments attending an interview with a national of their country applying for asylum in the United Kingdom. [205456]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance has been issued to asylum staff that they must not disclose any information about an individual's asylum claim to their country of origin while the claim is under consideration, unless the applicant has given his explicit consent for the transfer of the data. Accordingly, officials or representatives of foreign governments are not permitted by the United Kingdom Border Agency to attend asylum interviews.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the asylum seekers dispersal programme was including the administrative costs of joint contracts and housing providers *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region for each of the last four financial years. [206695]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold separate information for the administrative costs of joint contracts and housing providers. The cost of dispersed accommodation in the four years in question was as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	315
2005-06	183
2006-07	155
2007-08	179

These figures include accommodation costs and the costs of transporting asylum seekers to and from accommodation. Figures for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to audit and possible amendment.

We do not hold expenditure information by region for any year apart from 2007-08 as follows:

	£ million
London and South East	12.8
Wales and South West	17.6
Scotland	26.6
North West	28.5
Midlands	37.7
North East	56.5

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the quality of the initial decision-making stage of asylum applications. [207100]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of initial decision making. All asylum case owners undergo a comprehensive 55-day foundation training programme, and a period of mentoring within that programme. An independent quality audit team has been established that assesses asylum decisions on a monthly basis against a framework agreed with UNHCR. We are currently working with UNHCR in developing and piloting initiatives such as a decision making template.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to provide access to healthcare and education for families during the asylum application process. [207103]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Government policy on access to healthcare and education for families during the asylum process remains unchanged. All persons with an outstanding application for asylum in the UK, including where applicable an outstanding appeal, are entitled to access to NHS services. Education is made available to all children of asylum seekers who are of compulsory school age.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to consider the welfare of children during the asylum application process. [207101]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The UK Borders Act 2007 placed a specific obligation on the UK Border Agency to have regard to a code of practice for keeping children safe from harm while in the United Kingdom. The agency is currently consulting about the code of practice, with opportunities for stakeholders to attend conferences and discuss specific concerns.

The agency has already started to roll out a 'Keeping Children Safe' training programme to UK Border Agency staff to raise awareness about children's issues so that they are more responsive to children and their needs, including protection issues.

The Agency has also published 'Better Outcomes: The Way Forward' which sets out a number of proposals on the way unaccompanied asylum seeking children are cared for and treated during the processing of their asylum application. A copy of this has been placed with the Library (DEP 2008-0274).

Additionally, each unaccompanied asylum seeking child now has a dedicated case owner who will see the application through from beginning to end. These case owners have received specialist training to ensure that they approach their task with due sensitivity to the needs of the child.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many failed asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each of the last 10 years; and how long on average it took to deport a failed asylum seeker after final refusal of an asylum claim in each year; [170368]

(2) how many illegal immigrants were deported from the UK in each of the last 10 years. [170370]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on an annual basis in the "Control of Immigration: Statistics Command Paper". The information is broken down by asylum applicants, including dependants, and those who have not claimed asylum. This latest publication covers 1996 to 2006 statistics and is published in table 6.1 Persons removed from the United Kingdom and those subject to enforcement action. Final 2007 statistics will be published in the command paper this summer but provisional 2007 figures are available in table 8b: Persons removed from the United Kingdom in the most recent quarterly web-based asylum statistics bulletin.

Persons departing voluntarily can leave the UK at any time without informing the authorities. The Border and Immigration Agency often learns of such people departing after they have left the UK, and hence, it is not always possible to say when they left. Since voluntary departures are included in figures on removals it is therefore not possible to say how long on average it takes to remove asylum applicants. While it should theoretically be possible to exclude the cases having left the UK at an unknown time, and then calculate an average, in practice this would be very time-consuming and would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to maintain the wellbeing of refused asylum seekers when taking action to remove them from the UK. [207102]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Government policy to maintain the wellbeing of refused asylum seekers when taking action to remove them from the UK remains unchanged. All removal cases are treated with due consideration to any compelling or compassionate factors which may be raised prior to removal. Failed asylum seekers subject to enforcement action are always treated with courtesy and dignity and removals are done in the most sensitive way possible.

Asylum: Housing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many households were supported by the National Asylum Support Service and Border and Immigration Agency in accommodation supplied by Newcastle City Council in each quarter of *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [178189]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* We do not record information on the basis of households.

The available information relating to the number of principal asylum applicants supported in accommodation provided by Newcastle city council at the end of each of the relevant quarters is in the following table. This accommodation is provided under the contract that the Home Office has with the North East Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support (NECARS). You will note an increase in the number supported during quarter 3 of 2007. This was due to the transfer of section 4 supported asylum applicants from a private sector provider to Newcastle city council during this period.

Principal asylum applicants supported in accommodation provided by Newcastle city council at the end of each quarter year, quarter 1 2005 to quarter 1 2008

		Number of principal asylum applicants
2005	Quarter 1	340
	Quarter 2	320
	Quarter 3	300
	Quarter 4	310
2006	Quarter 1	310
	Quarter 2	320
	Quarter 3	390
	Quarter 4	380
2007	Quarter 1	350
	Quarter 2	350
	Quarter 3	490
	Quarter 4	505
2008	Quarter 1	453

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1827-8W, on immigration: housing, what estimate she has made of the number of existing properties in asylum support housing transferred to the private rented sector. [207149]

Mr. Byrne: As a result of the recent exercise to determine the older family supported asylum applications we estimate that 635 properties are currently subject to agreements between local authorities and private accommodation providers.

Asylum: Sudan

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on asylum: Sudan, what progress has been made in her Department's inquiry into the alleged illegal interview of Darfuris with an active asylum case by a Sudanese embassy official in Home Office facilities in March and April 2007. [207142]

Mr. Byrne: All investigations have now been completed. A response to the report by the organisation Waging Peace, is currently being prepared and will be sent to them shortly.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition: Dover

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were stopped at the Port of Dover as a result of the use of automatic number plate recognition in the last 12 months. [209765]

Mr. Coaker: A total of 2,665 vehicles were stopped at the port of Dover as a result of the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) in 2007, the most recent timeframe for which figures are available. This also includes other agency use of ANPR.

Campusalam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to *(a)* the Campusalam website and *(b)* the Lokahi Foundation in each year for which figures are available. [206864]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 May 2008]*: The Department's payments to the Lokahi Foundation are set out in the following table.

There are no records on the Department's accounting system of any payments to the Campusalam website.

	Payments to the Lokahi Foundation (£)
2005-06	112,000
2006-07	129,800
2007-08	215,000
2008-09	92,500

Crime: Taxis

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent attacks, *(b)* sexual attacks, *(c)* thefts and *(d)* other crimes were reported against (i) licensed and (ii) unlicensed taxi drivers in each London borough in each of the last five years. [209368]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the Home Office collects statistics on offences recorded by the police, no information is collected regarding personal characteristics of either the victim or the alleged offender.

Crimes of Violence: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence were recorded in the Peterborough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [210531]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics on the number of offences of violence against the person recorded by the police in Peterborough are given in the following table. Violence against the person has fallen by 11 per cent. since 2002-03. There was fall of 3 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Offences of violence against the person recorded by police in the Peterborough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

	Number of offences
2001-02[1]	2,705
2002-03	4,534
2003-04	5,133
2004-05	5,165
2005-06	4,156
2006-07	4,017

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Customs Officers: Stansted Airport

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed in immigration control at Stansted airport; and how many are on duty at any one time, broken down by shift. [208660]

Mr. Byrne: A total of 191 staff are employed by the UK Border Agency in immigration control at Stansted airport.

The UK Border Agency does not disclose how many staff are on duty at any one time broken down by shift, as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to each police force of kennelling dogs has been since the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into force. [210181]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of her Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208394]

Mr. Byrne: Data showing volumes of staff declaring their gender, ethnicity, disability and sexuality (and their proportions of total staff) are in table 1. These data are valid as at the end of April 2008, and have been collected from Home Office Headquarters, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service, and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Table 1: Proportion and numbers of staff declared by gender, BME identity, disability and sexuality

	Proportion of staff (Percentage)		*Proportion of staff (Declared) (Percentage)*			*Number of staff*		*Number of staff (Declared)*		
Area	*(a) Male*	*(b) Female*	*(c) BME*	*(d) Disabled*	*(e) Not heterosexual*	*(a) Male*	*(b) Female*	*(c) BME*	*(d) Disabled*	*(e) Not heterosexual*
HQ	52	48	23	6	5	1,785	1,631	372	87	40
UKBA	45	55	27	4	2	8,251	10,085	2,967	722	168
IPS	36	64	13.5	5.8	[1]	1,383	2,485	524	224	[1]
CRB	42	58	1.7	3.3	[1]	205	278	8	16	[1]
Total	45	55	15	4	1	11,624	14,479	3,871	1,049	208

[1] Unavailable.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207472]

Mr. Byrne: End of year performance bonus payments for staff in the Home Office headquarters, UK Border Agency, and for senior civil servants (SCS) across the Home Office are linked to performance appraisals. Table 1 provides the amount and number of payments made for 2006-07 end of year performance bonuses but paid in the financial year 2007-08.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) receive end of year corporate bonuses, and change agent bonuses. Table 2 shows performance bonus details for IPS.

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau do not receive end of year performance bonuses.

Table 3 provides the amount and number of payments made for end of year bonuses for senior civil servants in the Home Office HQ, UK border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau in the financial year 2007-08.

To provide a breakdown into Home Office HQ and its agencies would incur disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Amount and number of payments made for 2006-07

Financial year	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of payments made*
2007-08	4,482,371	5,657

Table 2: Performance bonus details for Identity and Passport Service (IPS)

Financial year	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of payments made*
2007-08	1,253,045	3,674

Table 3: End of year bonuses for senior civil servants in the Home Office HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB

Financial year	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of payments made*
2007-08	1,458,305	155

Footnotes and health warnings

1. This includes data for both senior civil servants and all other staff at working in Home Office Headquarters and UK Border Agency.
2. Although the performance bonus payment is made in financial year 2007-08 the period of performance assessment is 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.
3. Non-SCS staff payments are made with the annual pay settlement or later in the year if appraisals are not completed and returned on time.
4. SCS bonus payments were made in November 2007.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [198960]

Mr. Byrne: The information is already in the public domain, as answered to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1954W. The answer was as in table 1.

Table 1: PQ 198960: Working days lost to sickness per FTE staff per year

Business area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Central Home Office	6.7	6.1	6.3	5.2	5.4
BIA	8.5	8.7	9.5	10.3	10.8
HMPS (Prison Service)	14.7	13.3	12.7	12.2	11.64
CRB (Criminal Records Bureau)	11	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.6
IPS (Identity and Passport Service)	10.9	11.1	11.4	10.3	10.1

Departmental Training

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the staff in her Department who work on immigration matters have undertaken training in child protection. [208338]

Mr. Byrne: The importance of appropriate training is recognised in the Code of Practice for Keeping Children Safe. A comprehensive training programme is being delivered and further developed to ensure that this is provided.

At the end of May 2008, 7,667 UK Border Agency staff had used a core e-learning module aimed at increasing awareness of children who may be at risk of harm, and instructing them how to follow up in these situations. More business-specific e-learning modules had been used by 8,267 staff. In addition, 133 two day courses had been delivered to 1,429 UK Border Agency staff who have direct contact with children as an integral part of their job.

Both the e-learning and face-to-face workshop training are still being offered. The intention is that all UK Border Agency staff will complete the core e-learning; and all staff who have direct contact with children will complete both types of e-learning and the two-day course.

Specialist training will also be available shortly for those staff undertaking particular activities such as the interviewing of minors.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what proportion of its staff her Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209424]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office HQ, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS), and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) provide a range of vocational training.

Data are not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Appeals

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals she made against decisions by judges not to deport foreign citizens in each year since 2003; and what proportion were successful. [201879]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 April 2008]*: In 2005 legislation governing appeals changed to create the Unified Appeals Process. All UK Border Agency IT systems were updated at this time, and accuracy on data from before this change cannot be guaranteed. Hence we are unable to give reliable figures for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-2005.

When an appeal against a deportation order is allowed by an Immigration Judge, the Secretary of State for the Home Department may apply either to the Court of Appeal or to the High Court for permission to appeal against the Immigration Judge's decision. If successful, the Secretary of State will be granted permission to appeal.

The figures for the number of requests lodged by the Secretary of State for the Home Department for permission to appeal against an Immigration Judge's decision in a deportation appeal, and the number of these requests that succeeded are given in the following table for the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	Number of requests made	*Percentage of requests successful*
2005	65	60
2006	161	70
2007	134	66

Deportation: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children who are British citizens have accompanied parents who are currently subject to removal or deportation directions; [207582]

(2) to which countries children who are British citizens accompanying their parents have been removed in the last two years; [207585]

(3) what information is given to Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives in receiving countries by the UK Border Agency about children who are British citizens who have been removed or deported with their parents; and what assistance is offered to these children. [207586]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2008]*: The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) does not remove or deport children who are British citizens.

We invite parents who hail from a third country to take their UK-born children with them when they return to their country of origin. This is only done if that is in the best interests of the child and all parties (parents, UKBA, UKBA Children's Champion and children's services) agree.

Further advice on family removals is available in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Guidance and Instructions Manual. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectione

The information requested in PQ 207582 and PQ 207585 could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The UKBA does not give any advice or assistance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) representatives in receiving countries when parents take their UK born children with them when they return to their country of origin.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hand swab drug tests were undertaken by police in each London borough in the last period for which figures are available. [210039]

Mr. Coaker: Compulsory screening tests of suspected drug drivers can only be conducted by means of a device of a type approved by the Secretary of State. No such device is at present available.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) from which countries the Government does not require its nationals to hold a visa to enter the United Kingdom; [181671]

(2) what percentage of foreign nationals who entered the United Kingdom in each of the last five years did not require a visa to enter. [181625]

Mr. Byrne: European economic area (EEA) nationals are entitled to free movement and do not require leave to enter the United Kingdom.

There are two groups subject to immigration control known as visa nationals and non-visa nationals. A visa national needs entry clearance (a visa) to enter the UK in any circumstances. A non-visa national can come to the UK for less than six months as a visitor without a visa, subject to a number of exclusions such as marriage, study or medical treatment, but does need entry clearance to come to the UK for more than six months.

At present, nationals of over 100 countries or territorial entities are visa nationals. The countries are set out in attached table, Appendix 1 to the immigration rules. The nationals of all other countries outside the EEA are non-visa nationals. The UK global visa regime is currently being reviewed as part of the visa waiver test. This is an assessment against a series of benchmarks, by which we will consider whether a visa regime should be maintained, lifted or imposed. The results of the test will be announced in due course.

Data for the number of non-visa nationals and non-EEA nationals who entered the UK are available from 2004 to 2006; this is provided in the following table. Data are not available for earlier years. Statistics on non-EEA nationals entering the United Kingdom are published by reason for entry and main country of nationality in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom, excluding EEA[1] and Swiss nationals, 2004-06: United Kingdom

	Number of journeys		
	2004[1]	*2005*	*2006[2, 3]*
Total admitted[4]	12,000,000	11,800,000	12,900,000
Of which:			
Non-visa nationals not requiring a visa (Percentage)[5, 6]	69	67	67

[1] Includes nationals of Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[2] Due to some gaps in the data from ports, estimates have been used.

[3] Provisional data subject to change.

[4] Data rounded to 3 significant digits and relate to the number of journeys made: a person who enters more than once is counted separately on each occasion.

[5] Includes visitors, business visitors, contract seamen, passengers in transit and passengers returning after a temporary absence abroad.

[6] Excludes a few non-visa nationals (less than 1 per cent.) where it is not possible to determine from administrative data whether prior entry clearance was required.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will make a substantive decision on the case of applicant N214395 and N1102544 (CTS Ref M13830/7) submitted by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 25 July 2007. [208279]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* I have been advised that the United Kingdom Border Agency has now allocated the file to a caseworker in the Family Casework Team in Beckett House and the case will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons N. Lynn of the UK Immigration Service was unaware of the outstanding application submitted on 25th July 2007 by the hon. Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on behalf of applicant case reference N214395 and N1102544 (CTS Ref M13830/7) prior to the Border and Immigration Agency's attempt to detain the applicant; and if she will make a statement. [208280]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* I am not aware of any outstanding application submitted on the 25 July 2007 but if my hon. Friend would care to provide my office with fuller details, I will ask my officials to investigate.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 453W, on entry clearances: employment, what the 10 highest number of nationalities in each of the 20 occupations listed in the answer were in each year. [178371]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is available from the publication described as follows.

Work Permit information is published in the 'Foreign labour in the United Kingdom: current patterns and trends' report authored by John Salt and Jane Millar from the 'Migration Research Unit, University College London' and is available at the following website link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/labour_market_trends/foreign_labour.pdf

A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 453W, on entry clearances: employment, how many work permit migrants who applied for a variation of leave to switch employer were *(a)* refused and *(b)* granted their application in each year since 1997; and if she will give a breakdown of grants of variation in 2004 and 2005 for the 20 occupations listed in the Answer. [178372]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is as follows:

Work permit switching applications 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2007—application type is "In Country—Change of Employment"

	Application result	
	Approved	*Refused*
1997	2,605	175
1998	3,365	150
1999	3,940	205
2000	6,525	140
2001	12,325	255
2002	17,885	875
2003	19,375	1,085
2004	20,525	1,270
2005	18,515	1,550
2006	17,170	1,460
2007	14,755	2,445

Work permit switching applications approved 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2005—application type is "In-Country—Change of Employment"—Includes members of groups

Occupation	*2004*	*2005*
Analyst Programmer	215	135
Chef	1,220	1,105
Dancer (Other)	10	10
Doctor	615	535
Kitchen Assistant—SBS	10	5
Manager (Entertainment Related)	5	5
Musician	20	30
Nurse	8,480	7,480
Other Hotel/Catering Occupation	160	200
Other IT Related Occupation	745	710
Other Manager Related Occupation	1,035	1,180
Other Engineer Occupation	375	435
Other Financial Occupation	465	500
Other Health/Medical Occupation	2,005	1,520
Researcher	390	380
Singer	5	15
Software Engineer	325	205
System Analyst	95	55
Teacher (School/College)	960	690
Technician (Music)	0	0
Total	17,130	15,190

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what fair trade products are *(a)* available for purchase at her Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* regularly offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209029]

Mr. Byrne: In the Home Office headquarters building at 2 Marsham Street, Fairtrade products from various sources are available in both coffee shops and the restaurant. These include: coffee; tea; hot chocolate; orange juice; cookies; chocolate bars; flapjacks and similar bars. *(b)* Fairtrade teas and coffees are also provided as the default option at all departmental meetings and events where official hospitality is provided.

Firearms: Crime

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many deaths or injuries due to gun crime there have been *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in (i) Wales and (ii) England in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [209828]

(2) how many recorded gun crimes, excluding those involving use of air weapons, have been committed *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in (i) Wales and (ii) England in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [209829]

Mr. Coaker: Available information relates to the number of firearm offences (excluding air weapons) and resulting in fatal, serious or slight injuries per 100,000 population, from 1997-98 up to and including 2006-07, and is given in the following table.

Firearm offences (excluding air weapon offences) and injuries: per 100,000 population: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Period	*Region*	*Number of offences*	*Offences per 100,000 population*	*Number of injuries*	*Injuries per 100,000 population*
1997-98	England	4,808	10	797	2
	Wales	95	3	7	0
1998-99[1]	England	5,109	10	857	2
	Wales	100	3	8	0
1999-2000	England	6,749	14	1,186	2
	Wales	94	3	9	0
2000-01	England	7,361	15	1,346	3
	Wales	110	4	36	1
2001-02[2]	England	9,918	20	1,855	4
	Wales	106	4	24	1
2002-03	England	10,087	19	2,119	4
	Wales	161	6	60	2
2003-04	England	10,169	19	2,313	4
	Wales	169	6	54	2
2004-05[3]	England	10,780	20	3,780	7
	Wales	289	10	124	4
2005-06	England	10,855	20	3,727	7
	Wales	233	8	95	3
2006-07	England	9,435	18	2,911	5
	Wales	215	7	100	3

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1999.

[2] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much food waste her Department generated in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [208131]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office records its total waste arisings as required for the annual Sustainable Development in Government Report, and is working to reduce its total waste arisings. The Department does not record food waste separately.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers from A8 countries have registered under the Workers' Registration scheme since 2004. [206461]

Mr. Byrne: A cumulative total of 796,000 applicants have applied to register on the Worker Registration scheme between 1 May 2004 and 31 December 2007 of which, 766,000 initial applications were approved.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Foreign Workers: Graduates

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many participants there have been in the international graduate scheme since its inception, broken down by *(a)* degree subject and *(b)* type of work undertaken. [206510]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* Since its introduction on 1 May 2007 until 15 May 2008 some 20,110[1] applicants have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom under IGS.

This figure could be broken down only by degree subject and type of work undertaken through detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. (The figures quoted are not provided under National

Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.)

[1] Figures are always rounded up to the nearest five in PQ replies.

Homicide: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides where the method of killing was by sharp instrument have been recorded in South Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [210693]

Mr. Coaker: Available information, relating to homicides recorded by South Yorkshire police in the years up to and including 2006-07, is shown in the following table.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: South Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006-07[3, 4]

Year[3]	Number of homicides recorded
1997	2
1997-98	2
1998-99	3
1999-2000	4
2000-01	4
2001-02	6
2002-03	7
2003-04	2
2004-05	7
2005-06	6
2006-07	3

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[4] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on human trafficking: children, when she expects the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre study will be published; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish it. [209856]

Mr. Coaker: The report is still in draft form. When it is finalised a summary of the report will be published and a copy placed in the Library in due course.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were involuntarily removed from the UK in each of the last five years. [178730]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on an annual basis in the Control of Immigration: Statistics Command Paper. This latest publication covers 1996 to 2006 statistics and is published in table 6.1 Persons removed from the United Kingdom and those subject to enforcement action. Final 2007 statistics will be published in the command paper this summer but provisional 2007 figures are available in the most recent quarterly web-based asylum statistics bulletin in table 8b: Persons removed from the United Kingdom.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration raids have been carried out in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside since the launch of the Stop Illegal Working campaign. [198530]

Mr. Byrne: From 14 January 2008 to 31 March a total of 1,943 illegal working operations were carried out in the UK, 136 of these were carried out in Yorkshire and Humberside.

This information is derived from provisional local management information which may be subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants: Restaurants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W, on illegal immigrants: restaurants, for what reasons information on the number of people found to be working illegally in the restaurant industry in 2007 and each month in 2008 is not published. [207174]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of people found to be working illegally in the restaurant industry is not published because it is only captured on internal management information systems. The data held do not constitute part of national statistics as they are based on management information which may be subject to change.

In 2007 over 6,000 illegal working operations were carried out and over 5,000 suspected immigration offenders were arrested as a result.

Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what employment restrictions the spouses and partners of self-employed A2 nationals are subject to in the UK. [206525]

Mr. Byrne: Spouses and partners (by which is meant civil partners) of self-employed A2 nationals are not subject to any employment restrictions in the UK.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors were taken into account in the Government's proposed amendments to the resident labour market test by selecting *(a)* a two-week period for advertising jobs with earnings below £40,000, *(b)* a one-week period for jobs with earnings above £40,000 and *(c)* £40,000 as a threshold; and what research she (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on these proposals. [206512]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The resident Labour market test (RLMT) under the points based system will help to ensure that we continue to protect the privileged position held by British workers in the job market.

Details of how the RLMT will operate were set out in the recently published statement of intent on skilled workers under the points-based system. This statement of intent was accompanied by a detailed impact assessment, both the statement of intent and the impact assessment are available on the UK Border Agency website and in the Libraries of both Houses.

Immigration Controls: Working Holidays

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure those holding working holiday visas are expected to follow if they wish to retain their employment under the points-based system; and if she will make a statement. [196664]

Mr. Byrne: Switching into the points-based system (PBS) in the UK will be possible only from employment or student categories. The Working Holidaymaker (WHM) Scheme is neither. This general approach was first outlined in the March 2006 Command Paper "A Points Based System: Making Migration Work for Britain", and the December 2007 publication "Highly Skilled Migrants under the Points Based System - Statement of Intent" specifically explained that those with WHM leave will not be able to switch into any highly skilled sub-category. Copies of both documents are available in the House Library. If a WHM wishes to apply for PBS tier 1 (general) they are expected to go home to make their application. Once PBS tier 2 is launched, the same process will apply. Currently WHMs can switch to work permit leave if the job they are doing falls into a shortage occupation and they have been in the UK for 12 months; or to the innovator category.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a race impact study on the detention of children who are British citizens with accompanying parents *(a)* has been carried out and *(b)* is proposed. [207584]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency does not detain children who are British citizens.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the immigration detention estate reached full capacity in each of the last five years. [202576]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration detention estate is comprised of dedicated male, female and family accommodation. For reasons of operational contingency planning, the population is maintained at just below full capacity, and therefore that point has not been reached in the last five years. Within those constraints, however, the estate is managed in order to make the best possible use of the available beds.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* representations her Department has received from (i) hon. and right hon. Members and Peers, (ii) members of the public and (iii) ex-servicemen's charities and other groups on residency and citizenship rights of Gurkhas in the last 12 months. [197019]

Mr. Byrne: The subject matter of correspondence and of representations received by the UK Border Agency is not recorded in a way which enables this information to be extracted.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Director-General of the Border Agency will reply to the hon. Member for Warley's letter of 18 March 2008 regarding Mr Waseem Khan. [204479]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the right hon. Member on 1 May 2008.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to respond to the letter of 29 April from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley on Eugene Sands. [208716]

Mr. Byrne: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, wrote to the hon. Member on 30 May 2008.

Missing Persons: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of missing people were made to Cleveland Police in 2007, broken down by local authority area; how many of them related to *(a)* vulnerable adults, *(b)* children under the age of 12 years, *(c)* children aged 12 to 16 years old and *(d)* young people aged 17 to 18 years old; and how many of the reports of a missing person under the age of 18 years old related to a child or young person (i) in the care of a local authority, (ii) with a learning disability and (iii) with a physical disability. [209508]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for Cleveland police. Statistics on the number and age of individuals who are reported missing from home are not currently collected centrally.

One of the priorities for the Missing Persons Bureau is the development of a national picture of missing persons, including the relevant statistical information. The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with key stakeholders, including Missing People and the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group, to take this work forward.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign criminals were deported in 2007; and how many of these had convictions for offences related to trafficking, broken down by nationality. [207268]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee during her appearance of 15 January that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported in 2007. The information requested on whether these individuals had received convictions for trafficking related offences can only be obtained through the cross referencing of individual casefiles with police national computer records at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Visitors

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of family visitors to the UK who overstayed their visas in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [181678]

Mr. Byrne: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. Information on the number of family visitors to the United Kingdom who overstayed their visa could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

As one of the Government's ten substantive changes to the border and immigration system in 2008 we will count in and out the majority of foreign nationals. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Passports: Applications

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been interviewed in each of the operational passport interview centres since they opened; [171051]

(2) what the monthly operational cost is for each of the passport interview centres currently in use. [171052]

Meg Hillier: Over the past nine months, the Identity and Passport Service has been building, commissioning and progressively putting into live operation a network of 68 interview offices to establish the identity of first time adult passport applicants and reduce the level of fraudulent applications. The first offices were opened in June 2007, the 66th office was opened in January 2008 and the final office will be open in May. During the commissioning of new systems, people and offices, the volume of interviews has been constrained through selection by postcode and it is only next month that the network will be starting to operate at close to full capacity. The total number of people interviewed in these offices to end of March 2008 was 87,765 (including people who were involved in the live trial). In the financial year 2008-09, IPS expects to conduct a further 404,000 interviews, an average of 33,700 per month.

The monthly cost of operating the interview office network, including office rental, security, IT systems, administrative overheads and staff is estimated at £2.50 million. This excludes the cost of depreciation of relevant capital expenditure. This means the average cost, excluding depreciation, will be about £74 per interview. Once the interview network is complete and operating at full capacity, I would be in a position to provide detail on number of customers interviewed and cost per interview for each office. These will vary considerably from office to office reflecting both size and location. These costs are spread across all passport customers rather than being recovered solely from first time adult applicants, and there is no plan to charge higher fees to customers of smaller offices where the unit cost is higher. The aforementioned unit cost spread across all passport applicants amounts to about £12.50 per person and this is a component of the current overall adult passport fee of £72.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency will reply to the letter sent by the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood (Clare Short), on 8th April 2008, on behalf of Mamta Devi (Home Office reference number D1104208). [207388]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency (formerly the Border and Immigration Agency) wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 May 2008.

UK Border Agency: Liverpool

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the UK Border Agency's Liverpool casework unit. [204277]

Mr. Byrne: There are a number of teams operating within Liverpool that fall under various different business areas that form part of the UK Border Agency. These include local enforcement offices, criminal casework, asylum, managed migration and nationality. No assessment has been conducted that treats all teams based within Liverpool as one area of the agency. The UK Border Agency regularly publishes information on its performance on its website as well as through updates to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

UK Visas: Telephone Services

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* send to all hon. Members a full list of telephone, fax and e-mail addresses of desk officers in UK Visas and of telephone numbers in UK Visas where a voicemail facility is available. [207619]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* UKBA's Visa Services Directorate already has a special hotline telephone number and email inbox for MPs inquiries:

Hotline number: 0207 008 8463

Email address: mpvisaenquiries@fco.gov.uk

In addition, documents may be faxed to 0207 008 8359/8313.

Although in practice many MPs are in regular contact with individual geographical desks, having special points of contact for MPs allows their inquiries to be prioritised and a means they receive a better service.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the hours of operation of the MP's UK Visas Hotline are; how many staff are employed answering the hotline; how many and what proportion of calls to the hotline were answered in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make arrangements for an answering machine or voicemail facility to be installed on the hotline. [207620]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The MPs Hotline to UKBA's Visa Services Directorate (formerly UKvisas) operates between 9.30 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. One member of staff is employed to answer the calls. There is already a voicemail ~~facility~~ on the hotline and all calls are answered within 24 hours. 640 calls have been received since 1 January 2008, all of which have been answered.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK citizens obtained leave to enter the UK as a work permit holder on the basis of an intra-company transfer in each year since 1997; and people of which 20 nationalities obtained leave to enter the most times in this way in each such year. [206511]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]:* The information requested cannot be obtained from entry clearance records.

Work Permits: Occupations

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 20 most frequent occupations were of approved work permit applications in each of the last 20 years. [206256]

Mr. Byrne: The following list shows the 20 most frequent occupations of approved work permit applications in each year since 2000. Data for periods prior to 2000 are not available.

Top 20 occupations of work permit applications approved (1 January to 31 December each year)

2000

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Other IT-related occupations
Other financial occupations
Other engineer occupations
System analyst
Other health/medical occupations
Researcher
Software engineer
Accountant
Teacher (school/college)
Other education/cultural occupations
Other hotel catering occupations
Computer programmer
Fashion (model)
Marketing/sales manager
Musician
General manager
Lecturer (university)
Medical practitioner

2001

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Other it related occupations
Teacher (school/college)
Software engineer
Other engineer occupations
System analyst
Other financial occupations
Researcher
Other health/medical occupations
Analyst programmer
Accountant
Chef
Marketing/sales manager
Other hotel and catering occupations
Fashion (model)
Other education/cultural occupations
Computer programmer
General manager
Project manager

2002

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Teacher (school/college)
Other health/medical occupations
Other it related occupations
Software engineer
Chef
Other engineer occupations
Researcher
Analyst programmer
Other financial occupations
System analyst
Doctor
Other hotel and catering occupations
Accountant
Marketing/sales manager
Other education/cultural occupations
Fashion (model)
Business analyst
Project manager

2003

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Other health/medical occupations
Chef
Other IT-related occupations
Teacher (school/college)
Software engineer
Other engineer occupations
Researcher
Other financial occupations
System analyst
Doctor
Other hotel and catering occupations
Analyst programmer
Accountant
Other education/cultural occupations
Second chef
Kitchen assistant - SBS
Marketing/sales manager
Head chef

2004

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Other health/medical occupations
Other it related occupations
Software engineer
Chef
Teacher (school/college)
Other financial occupations
Kitchen assistant - SBS
Doctor
Researcher
Other engineer occupations
Analyst programmer
System analyst
Other hotel and catering occupations
Room attendant -SBS
Meat process operative - SBS
Cleaner of premises - SBS
Waiting staff - SBS
Accountant

2005

Nurse
Other manager related occupations
Other IT-related occupations
Other health/medical occupations
Software engineer
Other financial occupations
Chef
Other engineer occupations
Teacher (school/college)
Researcher
Doctor
System analyst
Analyst programmer
Senior carer
Other hotel and catering occupations
Accountant
Other education/cultural occupations
Meat process operative - SBS
Food service operative - SBS
Project manager

2006

Other manager related occupations
Other it related occupations
Nurse
Software engineer
Other engineer occupations
Other financial occupations
Other health/medical occupations
Chef
Senior carer
Researcher
Teacher (school/college)
Doctor
Analyst programmer
Other hotel and catering occupations
System analyst
Other education/cultural occupations
Project manager
Accountant
Mushroom processor - SBS
Marketing/sales manager

2007

Other IT-related occupations
Other manager related occupations
Software engineer
Other financial occupations
Nurse
Other engineer occupations
Researcher
Chef
Teacher (school/college)
Analyst programmer
Other health/medical occupations
System analyst
Senior carer
Project manager
Other education/cultural occupations
Other hotel and catering occupations
Business analyst
Marketing/sales manager
Accountant
Other legal occupation

The data are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Workers Registration Scheme: Fees and Charges

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors have been taken into consideration in deciding the level of the registration fee for the Workers' Registration scheme. [206462]

Mr. Byrne: The fee for the issuance of a work card under the Workers Registration scheme is set in consideration of the administrative costs of the operation of the scheme.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of progress in concluding the outstanding insurance claim against Bedfordshire Police Authority following the incident at Yarl's Wood on 14 February 2002; when she expects to announce a final settlement of the claim; and what estimate she has made of the likely costs of this claim. [207322]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is not directly involved in the claim made against Bedfordshire Police Authority for the fire at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre on 14 February 2002 and we have no line of sight to the case details.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Malaria

7. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made towards United Nations policy objectives on malaria. [209999]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed £1 billion over the next seven years to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, as well as directly supporting developing countries, research and other international organisations. The UK will also provide 20 million extra bed nets towards achieving the goal of universal bed net coverage by 2010.

Genetically Modified Crops

8. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the contribution of genetically modified crops to food supplies in developing countries. [210000]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made a specific assessment of the contribution of genetically modified (GM) crops to food supplies. But there are examples where the use of GM crops is increasing food production such as in the Philippines, where 300,000 hectares of GM maize was planted last year.

Genetically modified crops will not solve the problem of world hunger on their own. But biotechnology, including GM crops, does have a potentially important contribution to make, providing it is managed responsibly.

Global Plan to Stop TB

9. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards achieving the target outlined in the Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-15; and how much of the US$56 billion required to implement the Global Plan has been spent. [210001]

Gillian Merron: Prevalence and mortality rates for TB are falling, and just over six out of 10 cases are now detected. Spending is increasing from $2 billion in 2006 to $2.7 billion this year and we will continue to support expenditure against the Global Plan.

Tibet

10. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to provide humanitarian assistance to the indigenous population of occupied Tibet. [210002]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not plan to provide humanitarian assistance in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Together with our colleagues at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we are keeping the situation under review, but there does not at this time appear to be any reason for us to provide such assistance. We continue to provide £500,000 per year to support Save the Children's work in Tibet. This is continuing to run smoothly despite the recent unrest. The work is not considered politically sensitive either by the Chinese authorities or by the Tibetan population, and is welcomed by both.

Palestine

11. **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan. [210003]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A capable, responsive and accountable Palestinian Authority (PA) is essential for a viable Palestinian state. The Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PDRP) sets out the PA's spending plans and reforms to strengthen its capacity and accountability. DFID-funded technical assistance enabled the PA to prepare a credible PRDP that formed the basis for the pledges at the Paris donor conference. The UK pledged up to £243 million over the next three years. In 2008 we have provided £36 million in support of the PRDP, for services such as health and education and for ongoing technical assistance to the PA in taking forward reforms.

Burma

12. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [210004]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the right hon. Member to my response to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) earlier today (UIN Number 2099945) during International Development oral questions.

Park for Women: Lashkar Gah

13. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans he has for the funding and operation of the Park for Women in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province in the next 12 months. [210005]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government of Iraq has responsibility for the funding and operation of the Bolan Park in Lashkar Gah. To that end, the Department for International Development has no plans for further support to the park.

Afghanistan

14. **Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between his Department and British armed forces in Afghanistan. [210006]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since UK expansion into Helmand province in June 2006, the effectiveness of co-operation between UK armed forces, the Department for International Development (DFID) and other UK civilian departments has been regularly assessed by officials and Ministers from DFID, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Co-operation has improved over the last two years, as the UK-led, joint civilian-military provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Helmand has developed. Military and civilian are located in the PRT, working closely with the local Afghan government, undertaking joint planning, and making joint decisions on funding reconstruction projects. DFID's development advisor in the PRT has helped to ensure that development in Helmand is co-ordinated with the UK military's work and with DFID's nationwide development programmes.

An example of effective co-operation is the joint planning for the military operation in Musa Qala in December 2007, which resulted in more immediate and effective stabilisation after the military operation had concluded. Discussions are also underway on using military resources to make roads to market more secure, which will support the Department for International Development's (DFID) livelihoods and development programmes in the province.

The recently agreed Helmand Road Map is an operational guide for UK engagement in Helmand over the next two years and provides the key measures for assessing the future effectiveness of civil/military co-operation.

Maghreb

15. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what support his Department is giving to building capacity for third-sector organisations in the countries of the Maghreb. [210007]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have bilateral programmes in the Maghreb countries but provides support through significant multilateral contributions. The UK is contributing about €200 million towards the European Commission's €1.2 billion programme of support for Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco over the period 2007-10 and DFID works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to encourage the European Commission to engage Civil Society in its policies and programmes.

Belize: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the UK gave to Belize in each year since 2000. [209224]

Mr. Malik: Details on UK aid to Belize since 2000 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX), 2000-01 to 2006-07, Belize

	£000
2000-01	8,164
2001-02	5,541
2002-03	11,081
2003-04	1,670
2004-05	1,642
2005-06	1,198
2006-07	991

The reduction in GPEX after 2002-03 equates to the last contributions from other official UK sources, principally CDC.

Table 2: Imputed DFID share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA), 2000-01 to 2006-07, Belize

	£000
2000-01	608
2001-02	589
2002-03	374
2003-04	376
2004-05	475
2005-06	984
2006-07	814

Burma: Storms

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* supplies for those in Burma affected by Cyclone Nargis are on board HMS Westminster. [209367]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As the closest British ship to the area, the HMS Westminster was initially sent to waters off the coast of Burma. She had on board a helicopter, rigid inflatable boats, water jerry cans and 6,000 litres of bottled water. She was replaced by HMS Edinburgh on 25 May. Both vessels have now returned to normal duties and remain in the region.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department's green transport plan was introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of this plan. [209248]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) first introduced its green transport plans in 2000. There are in fact two plans, one for each of our two UK offices. The plans were updated in 2004, and we are currently in the process of updating them again. A copy of the last version has been placed in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to address food shortages in developing countries. [209716]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is very concerned about food shortages in developing countries. There are already 850 million people who do not have enough to eat and high food prices have the potential to push a further 100 million into hunger. I attended the Rome Food summit and called for all donors, other international organisations, the private sector and civil society to double their efforts to tackle global hunger and food security under an International Partnership for Agriculture and Food.

The UK Government have announced a £538 million package. This includes both short-term and long-term measures: £400 million for agricultural research over five years; £30 million to the World Food Programme; £22 million for the Ethiopia safety net; £8 million for nutrition monitoring; £38 million for road building in Democratic Republic of Congo, £32 million for social protection in Mozambique and Bangladesh and £6.5 million for food aid and agricultural inputs for Afghanistan. In addition, new commitments for budget support were announced for Ghana, Uganda and Malawi totalling £217 million.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the spread of AIDS in developing countries. [209714]

Gillian Merron: On 2 June, the UK Government launched their updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access - the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world". The strategy sets out the UK's response to tackling HIV and AIDS in developing countries to 2015. A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The UK will continue to play a leadership role and assist developing countries to reach the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to help achieve millennium development goal 6, to halt and reverse the spread of HIV.

Malawi: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what agricultural support his Department is providing to Malawi in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [209221]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are providing £20 million over four years to support the Government of Malawi's fertiliser and seed subsidy to increase agricultural food production, support drought insurance and measures to smooth domestic maize prices and mitigate the vulnerability risk.

In 2007-08 the UK Government also provided £22 million of Poverty Reduction Budget Support to the Government of Malawi of which £5 million is estimated to have supported agriculture.

DFID also provides multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, some of which is used on agricultural activities. For example, DFID has provided over £90 million in support to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation and International Fund for Agricultural Development over the period 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* level and *(b)* type of aid and assistance his Department is providing to Somalia in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [208250]

Gillian Merron: In 2006-07, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £16.6 million for Somalia. £8.0 million was for humanitarian assistance to the worst-affected areas and £8.6 million was allocated for development assistance. DFID's development programme focuses on health, education, livelihoods, security and governance.

DFID also provides core funding to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank, the European Commission, and United Nations organisations, some of which contributes to multilateral spending in Somalia. Total multilateral spending in Somalia in 2005 was £49,608,000 of which around £5.1 million was from DFID. See table 18

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2007/tables-index.asp

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the issue of the outstanding International Criminal Court arrest warrant for Ahmed Harun was addressed at the most recent pledging session of the Sudan Consortium in Oslo. [209458]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for Ahmed Harun was not discussed at the Sudan Consortium meeting in Oslo.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the aid committed by the UK at the recent pledging session of the Sudan consortium in Oslo is to be delivered via the Sudanese Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. [209460]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: None.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [210242]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not directly commission television programmes.

Through the DFID/Commonwealth Broadcasting Association Broadcast media scheme, DFID awards grants (up to £10,000 maximum) for travel bursaries and development costs in order to enable producers to develop taster tapes and research programme concepts that focus on the developing world.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cromwell Green Entrance

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average temperature was in the visitor reception building on each day since its opening; what monitoring of the air temperature the Commission undertakes; what discussions the Commission has had with representatives of staff required to work in the visitor reception building about the air temperature; and if he will make a statement. [209127]

Nick Harvey: Temperatures are monitored hourly but have not been retained for the full period since the building opened. Between 2 and 5 June the temperature did not exceed 22.4°C. Security staff in the building are supplied to the Houses by the Metropolitan police with whom the Serjeant at Arms is in regular discussion on this and other operational matters.

The cooling system of the building is not yet operating at full capacity. Staff found the working environment uncomfortable during a hot spell in May. Extra cooling will be installed if the central system does not prove adequate.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the expected cost of the *(a)* design and *(b)* construction of the air conditioning system in the visitor reception building was (i) at the commencement of building, (ii) on 1 January 2006, (iii) on 1 January 2007 and (iv) on 1 November 2007; what the final cost has been; and if he will make a statement. [209128]

Nick Harvey: The cost of the air conditioning system cannot be separately identified. For the overall cost of the project, I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 7 February 2008, *Official Report* column 1120.

Members: Home Addresses

Mr. Mackay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W, on Members: correspondence, if he will arrange for screening services similar to those provided at the House to be made available at hon. Members' home addresses. [210063]

Nick Harvey: Screening of mail at hon. Members' home addresses would involve practical difficulties and incur significant extra cost. Hon. Members wishing to have mail addressed to their homes screened would have to arrange for it to be redirected to the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many city academies he plans to establish in each of the next five years. [209447]

Jim Knight: There will be 50 new academies opening in the academic year 2008/09, with a further 55 opening in each of the following years to 2010/11. This will bring the total number of academies open by 2010 to 243, exceeding our target of 200 open or in the pipeline by this date. The numbers of academies opening in subsequent years will be subject to decisions on future spending reviews.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which local authorities his Department is in discussions on the establishment of city academies and trust schools. [209449]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families holds regular discussions with all local authorities as part of its ongoing drive to raise standards in schools. The potential for academies and trusts routinely forms part of these discussions.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the role of academies in *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* local authority strategies for education for the 14 to 19 age group. [209764]

Jim Knight: Academy funding agreements require academies to ensure that their pupils in the 14-19 age group have access to the same curriculum entitlements as their peers in maintained schools. This means that academy pupils will have equal access to diplomas.

We expect academies to participate in the delivery of diplomas in the same way as other providers. We know that 18 (of 47 then open) academies were in consortia approved for the delivery of one or more of the five diplomas in the first phase, from September 2008 and that 58 (of 83 open) academies are partners in consortia that have been approved for the delivery of one or more of the 10 diplomas to be available from September 2009 (14 of which are also partners in the consortia approved for delivery of diplomas from September 2008).

In terms of 14-19 place commissioning, academies, like other providers, will represent their interests and contribute expertise through local 14-19 partnerships. Academies will participate fully in this process. Academies will receive their funding directly from the DCSF in line with the agreed local commissioning plan.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) on what date rebuilding or refurbishment work under the Building Schools for the Future programme was *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* planned to be undertaken on the first secondary school in (i) Colchester constituency and (ii) Essex Education Authority area; and when he expects the last school in (A) Colchester constituency and (B) Essex Education Authority area to have works carried out; [208877]

(2) which secondary schools in *(a)* Colchester constituency and *(b)* Essex Education Authority area have had rebuilding and refurbishment work carried out under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how much the works have cost in each case; [208878]

(3) how much has been spent in *(a)* Colchester constituency, *(b)* Essex Education Authority area and *(c)* England under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement; [208879]

(4) how many secondary schools in *(a)* Colchester constituency, *(b)* Essex Education Authority area and *(c)* England have been rebuilt and refurbished under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [208880]

Jim Knight: No schools in Essex have yet received funding to be rebuilt or refurbished under Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

Essex has four projects in BSF comprising schools in the south, west, north and centre of the county. The first project, for schools in south Essex, is in wave 4 of the programme. Construction work on the first school is currently expected to start in May 2010 and to be completed early in 2011, subject to the approval of an outline business case by September 2008. The date when work on the last school in Essex will be completed under BSF will not be known for some time and is dependent on a range of factors, including future public spending decisions, the current consultation on the management of waves 7-15 of BSF, and local decisions about prioritisation and phasing of school projects.

Secondary schools in the north of Essex, including Colchester, were originally prioritised in waves 13-15 of BSF. We would expect schools in wave 13 to receive BSF funding from 2017-18 and those in wave 15 two years later (subject to future public spending decisions), with schools in wave 13 to likely to be completed from 2020. However, the current consultation on managing waves 7-15 of BSF may affect when schools in Colchester receive BSF investment and consequently when they are rebuilt or refurbished.

To date, 13 schools in England have been rebuilt or refurbished under BSF. The BSF projects that have already signed contracts are worth around £2.5 billion. Taking into account future investment in subsequent phases of these BSF projects, this figure increases to £3.9 billion.

Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* one to three year olds and *(b)* three to five-year-olds in England in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [206148]

Jim Knight: Population projections are the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the following table is based on their latest projection:

Population in England at mid-year by age at last birthday

		Thousand
	Age 1-3	*Age 3-5*
2009	1,924	1,826
2010	1,967	1,881
2011	1,987	1,928
2012	2,012	1,970
2013	2,029	1,991

Source:
ONS mid 2006 based principal population projection.

Class Sizes: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the borough of Bexley in the latest period for which figures are available. [208636]

Jim Knight: Latest information from the School Census is given in the following table:

Pupil teacher ratios in local authority maintained schools. Year: January 2007. Coverage: Bexley LA, London region and England

	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
Bexley LA	22.7	17.8
London region	21.9	16.1
England	21.8	16.5

Source:
School Census

This information is taken from table 25 of the SFR: "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)", published in September 2007 and accessible through the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml.

Class Sizes: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* pupil-teacher and *(b)* pupil-adult ratio for key stage 3 was in secondary schools in (i) Leeds Metropolitan District and (ii) Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997. [209738]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Secondary within school pupil teacher ratios in local authority maintained schools are readily available. Figures for Leeds local authority, Leeds West constituency and England for each year from 1997 to 2007 are provided in the following table.

Secondary within school pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained schools year 1997 to 2007 coverage Leeds LA Leeds West constituency and England

	Leeds local authority	*Leeds West constituency*	*England*
1997	16.9	16.6	16.7
1998	16.8	17.3	16.9
1999	16.9	17.0	17.0
2000	17.0	17.8	17.2
2001	16.8	17.2	17.1
2002	16.3	16.3	16.9
2003	16.6	16.9	17.0
2004	16.5	17.5	17.0
2005	16.1	16.6	16.7
2006	16.4	16.5	16.6
2007	16.4	16.2	16.5

[1] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on role in schools by the total FTE number if qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:

School Census

Class Sizes: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wirral West constituency in January 1997. [209343]

Jim Knight: In January 2007, the within school pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Wirral West constituency were 22.6 and 14.9 respectively. The equivalent figures for England were 21.8 and 16.5.

Within school PTRs are calculated by dividing the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils on role by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed. The source of this information is the school census.

Education: Assessments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on targets and league tables for school results for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 and GCSEs. [209494]

Jim Knight: The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee's Report on Testing and Assessment published on 13 May included a number of statements on the impact of performance targets and achievement and attainment tables on the education system. We will respond in full to the Select Committee's report in due course. In addition, the Department receives correspondence from schools and other bodies from time to time on these and related issues.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department informed the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority of Educational Testing Service's intention to end borderline checking of markers' standardisation test results before the award of the contract to administer Key Stage tests for 2008 to 2012. [209783]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of national curriculum tests. In December 2004, the QCA notified the Secretary of State of their intention to remove the borderlining check from the marking process for tests at key stages 2 and 3 when better measures were in place to ensure the reliability and validity of marking. In January 2005, the Secretary of State confirmed her agreement. The exchange of letters can be viewed on the QCA's website at:

www.qca.org.uk/qca_8923.asp

and

www.qca.org.uk/qca_8835.aspx

The procurement requirements, subsequently published by the QCA, did not include specific marking quality assurance requirements, but instead invited tenderers to propose better quality measures for marking. ETS Europe did not play any part in the decision to replace the borderlining check.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he was informed about problems with educational testing service and key stage tests. [209820]

Jim Knight: The administration of national curriculum tests, as part of the process for maintaining standards, is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. As usual during the test delivery period, we are in regular contact with the National Assessment Agency, which administers the tests on the QCA's behalf. Ministers take a close interest in the progress of test delivery.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evaluation criteria are applied to those organisations tendering for contracts to administer Key Stage tests; and what assessment his Department had of the extent to which Educational Testing Service met these criteria. [209821]

Jim Knight: The procurement and award of contracts for national curriculum assessment delivery is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). They carry out this function independently of Government. I am satisfied that the QCA carried out their responsibilities in relation to the contract for test delivery services with all due diligence. I have asked David Gee, Managing Director of the National Assessment Agency, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 9 June 2008:

I have been asked to write to you in response to your parliamentary question about the evaluation criteria used in assessing tenders for the national curriculum tests delivery contract.

The evaluation criteria were included in the Invitation to Tender (Section 8), an extract of which is below:

Service Delivery

The supplier's ability to deliver the services to time and quality;

The agreed level of quality and security to which the Service will be delivered (including ensuring quality of marking);

The supplier's capabilities and operation of a programme management, governance regime and relationship management approach;

Efficiency, Impact and Value

Assessment of the impact of burden on schools of implementing the identified solution;

The supplier's proposals for innovative delivery of the Service;

The supplier's proposals for delivering efficiency and ongoing cost reduction; and

Costs (suppliers should note that costs submitted will be evaluated on a line-by-line basis in the response to the pricing model).

Risk and Issue Management

Ability to identify, assume and manage risk (including an outline of the steps the supplier will take to mitigate risk), attitude to risk taking, confidence in managing risk and ability to minimise the commercial impact of risk.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has contingency plans in place to re-mark this year's Key Stage 3 tests. [209822]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority estimates that all the tests will be marked to the expected standard and results returned to schools by 8 July, as published in the 2008 "Assessment and Reporting Arrangement" booklets. As in previous years, schools will have an opportunity to request a review of the marking of any pupil's scripts about which they have concerns on the application of the mark scheme. This year, the reviews process will operate in a similar fashion to previous years.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of those who applied to mark Key Stage 3 examinations failed the markers' standardisation test in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [209823]

Jim Knight: The administration of national curriculum tests, as part of the process for maintaining standards, is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests on their behalf. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 9 June 2008:

I have been asked to write to you in response to your parliamentary question about the standardisation process for markers of national curriculum tests for key stage 3.

The standardisation quality check has changed in purpose and application from 2007 to 2008. The failure rates quoted below are therefore not comparable.

In 2007, 72 markers out of 9,816 failed the standardisation check. That check was designed to test a marker's consistency in applying the mark scheme and, alongside a sample of live marking, was evaluated by a marking supervisor. The evaluation of the live sample was subject to the variation of individual judgement. These quality measures constituted a major part of the marking quality control process and took place early in the marking period.

In 2008, 81 out of 9,991 failed standardisation. The check this year is designed to test a marker's consistency in applying the mark scheme and to identify where support is needed to improve consistent application of the mark scheme. Markers receive feedback and mentoring support from their supervisors, as necessary, throughout the marking period. In addition this year every marker is subject to similar checks, against a national standard, at regular intervals throughout the marking period.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's observer raised any concern over the procurement procedure for selecting the company to administer Key Stage tests for 2008 to 2012. [209827]

Jim Knight: No. The selection of ETS Europe to be the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's delivery partner for national curriculum assessment was conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on the procurement of public sector contracts, and successfully passed the scrutiny of the OGC.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Standard Assessment Test papers have not been marked as a result of the delayed delivery by ETS Europe; [209926]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the delay in delivering Standard Assessment Tests by ETS Europe to markers on students who are waiting for results. [209927]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is responsible for national curriculum test delivery. They estimate that all test papers will be marked in time for the results to be sent to schools by 8 July, as published in the 2008 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements booklets.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to compensate markers who have experienced delays in receiving SAT papers and consequently not received payment for work. [210211]

Jim Knight: The administration of national curriculum tests is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) administers the tests on their behalf. I have therefore asked David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, to write to the hon. Member. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 11 June 2008:

I have been asked to write to you in response to your parliamentary question about payments to markers of national curriculum tests.

As part of the contract for delivering national curriculum tests for key stages 2 and 3, the test operations agency, ETS Europe, is required to arrange for the accurate marking of all test papers. ETS Europe is meeting this requirement by directly contracting individuals to undertake marking work. The contract of employment, which is subject to UK law, is a private matter between individual markers and their employer. As such, any issues relating to the contract of employment, such as compensatory payments, are private matters and not matters of Government policy.

Education: Per Capita Costs

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much expenditure from the public purse has been allocated per child in education in Warrington in each year since 1997. [209229]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil for years 1997-98 to 2005-06, for Warrington local authority in real terms are as follows:

	Revenue funding figures per pupil (£)
1997-98	2,820
1998-99	2,870
1999-2000	2,980
2000-01	3,190
2001-02	3,340
2002-03	3,430
2003-04	3,530
2004-05	3,640
2005-06	3,840

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with the 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures quoted in the aforementioned table because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures quoted in the aforementioned table are based on Education Formula Spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 this is the basis for the 2005-06 baseline figure quoted as follows; as described this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2007-08 for Warrington local authority are provided in the following table:

	Warrington LA
2005-06 DSG plus grants (baseline)	3,780
2006-07 DSG plus grants	3,880
2007-08 DSG plus grants	4,040

Note:
Price base: real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.

Educational Testing Service

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what due diligence was carried out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority regarding the commercial record and reputation of the company Educational Testing Service before the 2007 contract for standard assessment tests was agreed; [209819]

(2) what due diligence was carried out by his Department in checking the commercial record and reputation of the company Educational Testing Service before the 2007 contract for Key Stage testing was awarded. [209826]

Jim Knight: The procurement and award of contracts for national curriculum assessment delivery services is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). They carry out this function independently of Government.

I am satisfied that they have carried out their responsibilities in relation to the contract with ETS Europe with all due diligence. The QCA Board, on which my Department has an observer, received the report on the conduct of the procurement for this contract which has successfully passed Office for Government Commerce (OGC) scrutiny. I have asked David Gee, managing director of the National Assessment Agency, to write to the hon. Member setting out the checks that were made. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 9 June 2008:

I have been asked to write to you in response to your parliamentary questions about the due diligence carried out by the QCA prior to the Board's decision to select ETS Europe as our delivery partner for national curriculum assessment.

An independent expert consultancy conducted a complete and thorough financial due diligence exercise on Education Testing Services. Their recommendation was that ETS was in a fit and proper financial state to be awarded the contract.

All tenderers were required to identify referees. These referees were approached independently for an in-depth interview covering key aspects of the tenderer's record of delivery and reputation. The QCA's examination of ETS's referees gave us full confidence in appointing ETS as our delivery partner for national curriculum assessment services.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on Educational Testing Service's contract prior to 19 May. [209824]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) kept the Department fully informed about its programme of procurement for services in respect of the delivery of national curriculum assessments. In securing key services, the QCA takes account of the Department's policy objectives. As usual with a major procurement exercise, officials from the Department observed the process at key points. The QCA is responsible for the development and delivery of national curriculum assessment. Its Board took the decision to award the test operations contract to ETS Europe in December 2006.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his officials have had with the Educational Testing Service on 2008 Key Stage tests. [209825]

Jim Knight: The administration of national curriculum tests, as part of the process for maintaining standards, is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the delivery contract with ETS Europe on the QCA's behalf. The Department's officials are involved in meetings with the QCA, NAA and with ETS Europe, but they do not have direct dealings with the QCA's contractors.

Further Education: Admissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who are under 16 will be entering post-16 education in September. [209784]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of children aged under 16 who will enter post-16 education in September 2008 is not available.

The number of pupils aged 11 to 15 in all secondary schools in England who were following a post-16 National Curriculum year as at January 2008 is shown in the table:

State funded secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils aged 11 to 15 who are following a post-16 national curriculum year[2, 3] as at January 2008 (provisional)

	Number of pupils aged 11 to 15 following a post-16 National Curriculum year
Number of pupils	1,140
Percentage of the school population[4]	0.04

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes CTCs and academies.

[2] Relates to pupils following National Curriculum years 12, 13 and 14.

[3] Age at 31 August 2007.

[4] The number of pupils following post-16 National Curriculum year groups expressed as a percentage of all pupils aged 11 to 15.

Source:

School Census

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that adequate funding is available for mergers in the further education sector. [204404]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

As the statutory planning and funding body for further education, it is for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to consider how it uses the funds it receives in line with stated priorities. There is no specific fund to support mergers. However, the LSC may decide to support the development of proposals in a number of ways, for example, by paying for a strategic options study to look at how provision might best be configured in an area. We are currently reviewing the organisational structure framework within which mergers and other organisational models are considered. This will include a stronger focus on the need to protect and enhance learner choice in an area, value for money and a robust process for appraising all proposals. We are keen to ensure that all options have been considered before mergers, as there is no evidence to suggest that larger colleges provide a better quality experience for the learner.

Literacy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on international comparisons of functional illiteracy levels. [210203]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research to supply data on the performance of fifteen-year-olds in schools in England for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's programme for international student assessment (PISA 2006).

In PISA the term literacy is defined as the extent to which students have acquired the ability to put their knowledge to functional use in different situations in adult life. It assesses students' knowledge on a three-year cycle, with each cycle focusing mainly on one of three areas: reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy. Scientific literacy was the main focus of PISA 2006, with mathematical and reading literacy as the two minor domains.

For reading literacy, 6.8 per cent. of English students scored below PISA level 1, which was slightly less than the OECD average of 7.4 per cent.

For scientific literacy, 4.9 per cent. of English students scored below PISA level 1, compared with an OECD average of 5.2 per cent. and for mathematical literacy, 6.0 per cent. of students scored below PISA level 1, which was slightly less than the OECD average of 7.7 per cent.

Pre-School Education: Pilot Schemes

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on pilot schemes extending the early years entitlement to two year olds in each of the next three years; how many two year olds will be able to take part in such schemes; and if he will make a statement. [210621]

Beverley Hughes: Building on the success of the existing pilots in 32 local authorities the Government will invest £100 million over the next three years to offer up to 15 hours free early education and child care to the most deprived two-year-olds living in 63 pilot local authorities. We will invest £20 million in this year, £30 million in 2009/10 and £50 million in 2010/11. We anticipate that in excess of 20,000 two-year olds will benefit from the pilot over the next three years.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* pupil-teacher and *(b)* pupil-adult ratio was for Key Stage 1 in maintained primary schools in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [208848]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available by the different key stages because some teachers may teach more than one key stage. The latest publication containing information on pupil-teacher and pupil-adult ratios is split by primary and secondary schools in the "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2008 (Provisional)" (see table 15). This can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000787/index.shtml

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Suffolk and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [209353]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil in 2003-04 and 2005-06 in real terms for Suffolk local authority and England are as follows:

		2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Suffolk	Primary (aged 3-10)	3,280	3,400	3,590
	Secondary (aged 11-15)	4,070	4,280	4,410
England	Primary (aged 3-10)	3,630	3,740	3,960
	Secondary (aged 11-15)	4,500	4,690	4,870

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the table below are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with 2003-04 and 2005-06 figures quoted above because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures quoted above are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EPS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06—this is the basis for the 2005-06 baseline figure quoted in the table; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding a primary/secondary split is not available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2007-08 for Suffolk local authority and England are provided in the following table:

	2005-06 DSG plus grants (baseline)	*2006-07 DSG plus grants*	*2007-08 DSG plus grants*
Suffolk	3,760	3,890	4,050
England	4,110	4,240	4,410

Note:
Price base: real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.

Religion: Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he is taking steps to ensure that freedom to choose or not to choose religious faith is taught in all state schools. [208793]

Jim Knight: The Department, with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), has published a non-statutory framework for religious education which has been agreed by all the main faith groups and the British Humanist Association. The framework is based on tolerance and respect and provides that pupils should learn about: Christianity; at least two other principal religions; a religious community with a significant local presence, and a secular world view.

Schools: Buildings

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the quality of school buildings is assessed in Ofsted inspections. [210104]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 June 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Inspectors do not make specific judgements on the quality of school buildings. However, the quality of the school buildings can influence judgements in a number of areas—for example, through their impact in enhancing or restricting curriculum and teaching; the effectiveness with which they are used; and whether they are maintained in line with health and safety guidance.

Inspectors must reach a judgement on the following question: "How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?" In making this judgement, inspectors are asked to evaluate "the adequacy and suitability of learning resources and accommodation, and how effectively and efficiently resources are deployed to achieve value for money".

Reports do not routinely comment on the quality of school buildings unless the quality of a school's accommodation acts as a significant impediment to or as a benefit for its provision and outcomes for learners. A number of reports have commented on the impact of new buildings but, on a few occasions, inspectors have also used their reports to draw attention to shortcomings in the quality of accommodation.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Mr. Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1789-90W, on schools: finance, what his latest estimate is of the cost pressures facing schools in 2008-09, using updated figures for the teachers' pay award, local pay implementation and local government pension provision; and if he will make a statement. [210260]

Jim Knight: A broad assessment of cost pressures on schools is made in order to set the level of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG), the details of which were made in the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families' written reply of 12 May 2008 (205312).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the percentage of schools which will receive budget increases in 2008-09 which will be lower than his Department's estimate of cost pressures; and if he will make a statement. [210261]

Jim Knight: The minimum funding guarantee is set at the level of the Department's broad assessment of average cost pressures, offset by efficiency savings. All schools will receive at least the minimum funding guarantee increase per pupil.

Schools: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what indications have been given to the Isle of Wight council of funding to be allocated from his Department to cover the cost of reorganising the education system on the Isle of Wight. [209518]

Jim Knight: The reorganisation of education provision on the Isle of Wight is a matter for local determination.

Schools' capital allocations for the period covered by the comprehensive spending review (2008-11) were announced last autumn. The Isle of Wight local authority will benefit from £36.1 million of capital investment over this period. This includes an indicative allocation of £8.4 million to support the delivery of the primary capital programme and is subject to agreement of a primary strategy for change which all local authorities have been asked to submit by 16 June 2008. None of this funding is linked to or conditional upon the Isle of Wight council reorganising school provision.

Schools: Performing Arts

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many performing arts schools there are in England; and how many places there are at each establishment. [209851]

Jim Knight: 551 maintained schools in England are designated as having an arts specialism, of which 478 are Specialist Arts Colleges, 42 are specialist schools which have arts combined with another specialism and 31 are other specialist schools which have arts as a second specialism. Schools with an arts specialism may focus on the performing arts, visual arts or media arts, or combinations of the three; we do not keep records of which particular strands individual schools focus on. In addition, there are two Performing Arts Academies and the Brit School—the only City College for the Technology of the Arts, which is dedicated to education and vocational training for the performing arts and associated technologies. Details of all of these schools, including the number of places within each establishment, has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Secondary Education: Liverpool

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had in respect of secondary school provision in the Croxteth ward of the constituency of the hon. Member for Liverpool, West Derby; what plans his Department has to provide practical and financial assistance to establish a secondary school as a complement to the Emmaus Primary School; and if he will make a statement. [209321]

Jim Knight: My noble Friend Lord Adonis has had discussions with representatives of the Emmaus Primary School, the local Catholic Diocese, and the local authority about developments in the Croxteth area of Liverpool. My Department has no plans to provide specific assistance to establish a secondary school in the area as a complement to the Emmaus Primary School. Proposals for schools with a religious character are made by the relevant faith bodies. We would expect the local authority to be the first port of call for any necessary capital funding, and that they will consider such investment as part of their overall strategy under the Building Schools for the Future initiative. Where in exceptional circumstances the local authority are genuinely unable to support worthwhile projects from their strategic capital funds, my Department has limited capital funding available to support new projects to increase standards and diversity.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of mainstream maintained secondary schools in each local education authority area have been classed as outstanding by Ofsted in the last five years for which figures are available. [210161]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 June 2008:

You recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted began to judge schools as 'outstanding' with the introduction, in September 2005, of the current inspection framework (commonly known as section 5). This uses a four-point scale ranging from 'outstanding' to 'inadequate'. I will therefore provide data for the complete academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07, and the first two terms of 2007/08. Please note that while all the reports for inspections carried out in the first two terms of 2007/08 have been published, the summary data have not yet been placed in the public domain. These will be available on the Ofsted website from Wednesday 18 June.

The attached table shows, for each year and part-year, and each local authority area, the number of maintained secondary schools ([illegible]cluding academies and city technology colleges) judged to be outstanding, the total number inspected, and the resulting percentage. However, the percentages should be treated with caution due to the relatively small number of schools in each local authority.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Mr Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Special Educational Needs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special educational needs statements were made in each of the last five years. [210089]

Kevin Brennan: The information is shown in the following table. Further details can be found in table 3a of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007" at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml.

Total children for whom a statement was made for the first time in calendar year

	Number
2002	30,720
2003	28,780
2004	25,990
2005	24,040
2006	22,600

Teachers: Resignations

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers under the age of 60 years employed in local authority maintained schools in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England left their posts in each of the last five years. [209385]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full and part-time regular teachers aged under 60 who left their posts in local authority maintained schools in the East of England Government office region in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06, the latest information available. This information is not available by local authority.

Teachers leaving their post are defined as those who left teaching service or went to a teaching post outside of the local authority maintained sector in England or who changed their school or employing authority. Teachers who left a full-time post to take up a part-time post or vice versa are also included.

Number of full and part-time regular teacher teachers in the local authority maintained sector leaving their post[1], 2001-02 to 2005-06, East of England Government office region

	Number
2001-02	11,270
2002-03	10,660
2003-04	9,810
2004-05[2]	9,440
2005-06[2]	9,770

[1] The number of teachers leaving their post may be slightly underestimated as around 10 to 20 per cent. of part-time teachers are missing from the data source. In addition, it is believed that not all moves between schools within local authorities are recorded.

[2] Provisional estimates.

Note.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Database of Teachers Records.

Truancy: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in secondary schools in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* other areas in Lancashire were classed as non-persistent truants in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210296]

Kevin Brennan: The available information relates to pupil enrolments not classed as persistent absentees (pupils who are absent for more than 20 per cent. of possible sessions of attendance) and is given in the following table.

State funded secondary schools[1] [2]: pupil absence 2006/07

	Number of enrolments[3]	Percentage of enrolments who are 'not' classed as persistent absentees[4]
Lancashire local authority area	70,503	93.1
Parliamentary constituencies in the Lancashire area		
Chorley	7,293	94.2
Burnley	5,709	88.1
Fylde	4,626	94.1
Hyndburn	5,294	92.1
Lancaster and Wyre	7,427	95.8
Morecambe and Lunesdale	4,274	91.1
Pendle	5,298	91.1
Preston	3,639	89.5
Ribble Valley	8,204	95.4
South Ribble	7,669	95.6
West Lancashire	5,919	93.7
Rossendale and Darwen	6,762	92.8
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	5,293	88.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges.

[3] Number of enrolments in schools between from start of the school year until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

[4] A persistent absentee is defined as missing more than 63 sessions in the year, typically, missing more than 20 per cent. of the school year.

Source:

School Census

Vocational Guidance: Standards

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there are plans for Ofsted to inspect local authorities' provision of Connexions. [209924]

Jim Knight: Connexions services are within the scope of joint area reviews of children's services, led by Ofsted, and from 2009 will be within the scope of inspections under new arrangements for comprehensive area assessment. We have no current plans to introduce a separate inspection programme regarding local authorities' Connexions provision.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 June 2008

WALES

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Treasury Ministers on steps being taken by that Department to alleviate any effects on local employment of the closure or downgrading of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Wales. [209500]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with Treasury Ministers on a range of issues, including the HMRC Change programme.

I understand that before withdrawing from any office, a full impact assessment is undertaken, assessing the impact on staff, customers and the local economy.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many recorded deaths from traffic accidents there were in Wales in each of the last 12 years. [209844]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Although any road deaths are regrettable the numbers in Wales have reduced by over 25 per cent. over the last 12 years from 218 in 1995 to 163 in 2006.

A full table showing the last 12 years of available data is as follows:

Number of recorded road deaths in Wales 1995 to 2006

	Casualties (killed)
1995	218
1996	216
1997	221
1998	202
1999	192
2000	168
2001	187
2002	147
2003	173
2004	201
2005	180
2006	163

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases were added to the register of referrals for overseas corruption allegations in each of the last five years for which there are records; and how many *(a)* have been and *(b)* are being investigated. [178825]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office have had 123 allegations recorded on the register of referrals for overseas corruption in the last five years. Of these, *(a)* two allegations were closed after investigation while *(b)* 18 continue to be investigated. A number of other allegations are being researched to establish whether an investigation is merited.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases appeared on the Serious Fraud Office's register of referrals on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such cases were investigated in each of the last five years. [192837]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office had 145 cases recorded on the register of referrals for overseas corruption on 30 April 2008—the latest date for which figures are available. In the last five full calendar years[1] a total of 25 investigations were opened by UK agencies, four in 2003, six in each of 2004 and 2005, and four each in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Three investigations have been begun to date during 2008. A number of other allegations are being researched to establish whether an investigation is merited.

[1] Answer given within calendar years.

Crown Prosecution Service: Databases

Jon Trickett: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* process and *(b)* timescale is for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to update its electronic records relating to those who (i) are awaiting charge and (ii) have been charged and are awaiting a trial or hearing; what guidelines apply to the updating of electronic records at the CPS; and who is responsible for the updating of electronic records of CPS cases. [208346]

The Solicitor-General: The process of the CPS creating an electronic record for those awaiting a charge is dependent on how the police have sought a pre-charge decision (PCD) from the CPS. The four factors that influence the process are:

1. Where the Exchange Links interface currently rolling out across the country, linking police and CPS case systems, is live in the area, and the police case systems can provide the electronic information to the CPS at the pre-charge stage.

This is the quickest process for creating the electronic record as the police case systems can send the pre-charge decision information via the Exchange Link. This message is then automatically registered on the CPS COMPASS case management system (CMS) as a pre-charge decision case.

2. Where it is a face to face consultation with a duty prosecutor (at a charging centre).

The pre-charge decision case record will be created on CMS either by the duty prosecutor at the time of the consultation, or subsequently registered by administration staff from the paper record.

3. Where it is over the telephone with CPS Direct (out of office hours).

Administration staff will create the case record on CMS when an email has been received from CPS Direct with the outcome of their pre-charge decisions.

4. Where only the paper file is received from the police.

Administration staff will create the record on CMS.

The timescales for creating the electronic case records have not been centrally mandated; however, the optimum business model process, currently being rolled out across the CPS, aims to ensure all case registrations are within 24 hours of receipt of the information, regardless of the process of receipt in the CPS.

For those who have been charged and are awaiting a trial or a hearing, the aim is for all electronic records on CMS to be updated within 24 hours of each hearing, to ensure timely information is available to enable the CPS to meet its commitments under the Victims' Code. To achieve this aim, the target set for all areas during 2007-08 was for 60 per cent. of cases to be updated within 24 hours; this target was met. For 2008-09 the target is 75 per cent; the early indications are that this target will be met. These updates are input by administration staff from information on the paper file.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 297W, on television: telephone services, which four allegations of television broadcaster misconduct have been considered by the Serious Fraud Office. [208254]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has considered an allegation against GMTV Ltd. and Opera Telecom Ltd. arising out of competitions run as part of the GMTV Breakfast programme and an allegation against Big Game Television. A decision was taken by the former Director of the SFO, Robert Wardle, not to commence formal investigations into these allegations.

An allegation against ITV plc. in relation to a number of programmes and an allegation concerning the BBC are still under consideration.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 297W, on television: telephone services, what meetings the Serious Fraud Office has had with representatives of *(a)* the BBC, *(b)* ITV, *(c)* GMTV and *(d)* other television broadcasters on alleged misconduct in the use of premium rate telephone services in viewer competitions and voting in the last 12 months. [208255]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office met with ITV internal legal counsel and solicitors instructed by the company on one occasion.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Supply: Security

11. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve the security of food supply. [210312]

Hilary Benn: Food security is about ensuring consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. This requires effective risk management and contingency planning, security of energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources and a strong domestic agricultural industry and food chain and infrastructure. In the light of recent increases in food commodity prices, we are reviewing our policies to ensure that they continue to deliver food security for all consumers.

Vehicle Excise Duty

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential environmental effects of vehicle excise duty; and if he will make a statement. [210314]

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential environmental effects of vehicle excise duty. [210301]

Mr. Woolas: I have regular discussions with my Treasury colleagues on this and a range of other issues.

Nitrate-vulnerable Zones

13. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to English farmers of implementing new proposals for nitrate vulnerable zones. [210315]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are considering our response to the consultation on implementing the nitrates directive.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions: Reduction Targets

14. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the Government's carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets. [210316]

Mr. Woolas: I and DEFRA officials have regular discussions with Department for Transport colleagues on this and a range of other issues.

Bees

15. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of recent changes in bee stock levels. [210317]

Jonathan Shaw: It is too early to make an assessment. There are indications of some significant colony losses across the country, but a considerable amount of restocking is also taking place. Work to investigate losses and check new stocks is being given high priority.

Energy Efficiency: Public Buildings

16. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings. [210319]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government have stretching targets for sustainable operations on their estate, including in relation to energy efficiency. We have announced a series of measures in our response to the Sustainable Development Commission's latest annual report.

Waste Disposal

17. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department provides to local government on alternatives to landfill and incineration of domestic waste. [210320]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme which supports local authorities to deliver more sustainable waste management has published research which is also available. Additionally, the Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme provides local authorities with support to help deliver the infrastructure needed to treat residual waste so that England can divert more waste from landfill.

Recycling

19. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of progress in increasing recycling rates. [210322]

Joan Ruddock: England is making good progress in increasing recycling rates. Household recycling rates increased from 7 per cent. in 1997 to 33 per cent. in the year to October 2007, packaging recycling rates are up from 28 per cent. in 1997 to 59 per cent. in 2007, and the most recent Environment Agency survey in 2002-03 showed that recycling rates for commercial and industrial waste were 45 per cent.

Waste Strategy for England sets out the Government's plans to increase waste recycling rates for household, commercial and industrial waste.

Animal Welfare

20. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with Compassion in World Farming on his Department's role in ensuring animal welfare standards are met in Government procurement policy. [210323]

Jonathan Shaw: The Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative encourages public bodies to specify higher animal welfare standards and suggests specific ways of achieving this. It also promotes farm assurance standards, including 'Freedom Foods', and allows buyers to place more emphasis on produce meeting higher level standards when contracts are awarded.

DEFRA will evaluate the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative and its effectiveness in improving animal welfare.

Wild Caught Bird Imports

21. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to continue the ban on wild caught bird imports. [210324]

Joan Ruddock: The EU ban on wild bird imports, introduced on 1 July 2007, is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future. We supported the ban on animal health grounds and, for the same reason, we support it now.

Flood Defence

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency has a prioritised action plan for high-risk flood defence systems not in target condition. [210305]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency reduces flood risk by focussing work on flood defences that contribute most towards risk. Annual work programmes are prioritised based on the latest inspections of flood defence conditions. More than 95 per cent. of Environment Agency flood defences are at or above the required standard.

Biofuels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage more drivers to use biofuels. [210391]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) requires the major oil companies and fuel suppliers that supply road fuels to ensure that a proportion of the road fuel supplied in the UK comprises renewable fuels such as biofuels. The scheme came into effect in April 2008. The level of the obligation for the first year (2008-09) is 2.5 per cent. of total fuel supplied, rising to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11.

The UK Government, through the Refuelling Infrastructure Grant Programme managed by the Energy Saving Trust, have provided grants since 2005 towards the cost of installing alternative refuelling points including, for example, for hydrogen, electric, bioethanol and natural gas/biogas stations. To date the grant programme has assisted in funding of 18 bioethanol (E85) refuelling stations and 1 E95 bioethanol station.

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the UK's performance in meeting its international carbon dioxide emission reduction targets. [209676]

Mr. Woolas: To meet our Kyoto target, UK emissions of the six gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydroflurocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) controlled under the Kyoto Protocol, expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent, must be 12.5 per cent. below base year levels across the period 2008-12. The base year is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for the fluorinated gases. In 2005 and 2006, UK emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) were below this level. Latest projections estimate that, including the impact of the EU ETS, UK GHG emissions will be 23 per cent. below base year levels in 2010.

Along with Germany and Sweden, the UK is one of the three EU-15 member states projected to be on track to achieve their Kyoto Protocol targets using only existing domestic policies and measures.

Chemicals: EU Law

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage manufacturers, importers and users of chemicals to follow EU rules on chemical control. [209168]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: On 1 June 2007 the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals) Regulation came into force. It is being implemented in stages over the next 10 years, and will replace much of the previous patchwork of chemicals control legislation with a single framework.

DEFRA, BERR, the UK REACH Competent Authority (the Health and Safety Executive), and the devolved administrations have been working closely since last year to raise awareness of REACH across industry, to encourage compliance and to make sure business can get the most benefit from REACH. This has been through a combination of four national conferences and over 25 regional follow-up events for industry organised by the Competent Authority, the creation of a dedicated REACH website within the Health and Safety Executive's website, and a national Helpdesk to provide advice and technical information for businesses (contactable by telephone on 0845 408 9575, or e-mail at ukreachca@hse.gsi.gov.uk). In addition, the Government have placed notices in specialised trade press, various online website links and e-newsletters, and an article in the February edition of the Employers' Bulletin sent out by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to over 1 million UK businesses. These activities will continue as REACH begins to be implemented in the coming months. Industry also has a role to play in REACH awareness-raising through the supply chain.

Enforcement of REACH is the responsibility of each EU member state, and on 2 June the Government launched a public consultation on the proposed UK arrangements. The documents are available on DEFRA's website. The enforcement arrangements must be in place by 1 December.

Chlorofluorocarbons: Waste Disposal

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of existing capacity safely to capture and dispose of products containing ozone depleting substances, with particular reference to those contained within plastic foam insulation; and if he will make a statement. [209642]

Mr. Woolas: The UK has some of the largest and most modern fridge treatment plants in Europe. These recover ozone-depleting substances from the fridge insulating foam and circuits and, in some cases, other equipment containing ozone-depleting substances.

There are two high temperature incinerators in the UK that are used to destroy waste ozone-depleting substances.

The use of ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams has been banned in the EU since the beginning of 2004. Most of these foams are currently still in buildings. DEFRA has initiated discussions with building industry stakeholders to assess the current infrastructure available for dealing with the recovery or destruction of ozone-depleting substances in building foams and the technical and economic issues that arise.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the commitment in the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to promote the International Energy Agency's One Watt Initiative. [209778]

Mr. Woolas: The "One Watt" Initiative was launched by the International Energy Agency in 1997 with the aim of reducing standby power consumption for new appliances to one watt or less by 2010.

At Gleneagles, the G8—led by the UK—agreed to promote the application of the one watt initiative and the UK has been working with retailers and manufacturers to design out the use of wasteful standby functions and we are moving to adopt the one watt standard as part of our own procurement policy.

The UK has also been pressing for regulatory action to achieve this at the European level. Work under the Eco-design for Energy-using Products Framework Directive (EuP) is going well and we are expecting mandatory minimum standards for standby by the end of 2009, with a one watt horizontal requirement for most energy using products in place by 2010.

Climate Change: Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has held with representatives of the space industry on the development of earth observation satellites to monitor the effects of climate change in the last 12 months. [209768]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not met representatives of the space industry to discuss the development of Earth observation (EO) satellites to monitor the effects of climate change, within the last year. DEFRA is a partner in the British National Space Centre (hosted by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) who co-ordinate the Government's interactions with the space industry. The Minister for Science and Innovation, who has responsibility for space policy, regularly meets with representatives of the space industry, where his wide-ranging discussions have covered the use of Earth observation satellites in monitoring climate change, and the associated Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. In addition to this, DEFRA organised a forum in March 2008, which was attended by a wide cross-section of the industry and others, to receive their views and input on the GMES initiative.

Flood Control: Land

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding his Department makes available to land owners to assist them in pursuing land management practices which contribute to flood defences; [208584]

(2) if he will provide agri-environment payments for land owners to incentivise land management practices which contribute to flood defences. [208585]

Mr. Woolas: Environmental Stewardship, the agri-environment scheme funded through the Rural Development Programme for England, has flood management as a secondary objective, in support of its five primary objectives for wildlife, landscape, resource protection, the historic environment and access. The scheme does not fund flood management measures but can support complementary measures, such as the creation of water meadows and ditch restoration. During the application approval process, Natural England is advised by the Environment Agency as to whether there are any flood management benefits to the application, but the critical deciding factor will be whether the proposal meets the primary objectives.

The Environment Agency's catchment flood management plans identify areas where changes in land management may have a beneficial impact on flood risk and Natural England can use this information to help target higher level stewardship (HLS) funding. In deciding which HLS schemes to fund, Natural England has to take into account the full range of scheme objectives, and proposals which only deliver flood management benefits are less likely to be funded than those which deliver multiple objectives.

In cases where flood risk is an issue but HLS is not available the Environment Agency may use the flood management budget to take appropriate action. Any such scheme would need to be prioritised along with all other competing flood management projects.

Floods: Felixstowe

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the meeting notes of the meeting held between the right hon. Member for Suffolk Coastal and the then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Derby South (Margaret Beckett), to discuss Felixstowe's flood defences. [209882]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* I will write to the right hon. Member when I have more information.

Food Supply

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the security of the national food supply. [210303]

Hilary Benn: I have discussed food security, both national and global, regularly with ministerial colleagues in recent months. The UK is more self-sufficient in food supply now than we were at the end of the Second World War, but we do need to respond to changing circumstances. I intend to publish a paper on ensuring Britain's food security later this month.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he takes of the possible effect on England and Wales of Scotland adopting a policy of banning GM crops when formulating policy. [209751]

Mr. Woolas: Like the rest of the UK, Scotland is subject to the relevant European Union legislation in this area. This provides for decisions on the proposed commercial release of GM products to be taken at EU level on a case-by-case basis, in line with the scientific evidence on the possible risks to human health and the environment.

Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation on the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. [209060]

Mr. Woolas: Both Ministers and officials in DEFRA engage regularly with colleagues at the Department for Transport on matters relating to Heathrow which affect DEFRA lead policy responsibilities: notably on air quality, noise and climate change impacts.

Under current plans to include aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS), aviation emissions will be capped at the average of 2004-06 levels. Therefore, any growth in emissions above this cap would be compensated by emissions reductions elsewhere in other sectors that are participating in the EU ETS.

Inland Waterways: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist local communities and voluntary associations to clear rubbish and other debris from rivers and canals. [210313]

Jonathan Shaw: The bodies responsible for maintaining waterways frequently work with local communities and charitable organisations to clear rubbish and debris. In addition, DEFRA provides funding to ENCAMS, who will be launching the Big Tidy Up campaign later this year—this will help community and voluntary groups to get involved in cleaning up their neighbourhoods, including rivers and canals.

Insulation: EC Law

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W, on insulation: EC law, whether his Department has set a timetable towards implementation following the European Commission's review of EC Regulation 2037/2000. [210384]

Mr. Woolas: According to the current information from the European Commission, any revised legislation resulting from the Commission's review of EC Regulation 2037/2000 may come into force in the UK and other member states by early 2010. The Commission acknowledges that this is an ambitious timetable.

Correspondence

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the response to the letter to the Prime Minister dated 19 December 2007 from Dr. James Hansen on the development of coal-fired power stations. [209770]

Mr. Woolas: It is not our policy to publish detail of responses to private letters.

Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been to the regulations affecting the trade of endangered species in the last two years. [210050]

Joan Ruddock: Commission Regulation (EC) No. 100/2008 came into effect on 25 February 2008 and made amendments to Commission Regulation 865/2006 which lays down the detailed rule concerning the implementation of CITES in the European Community. Changes included amendments to certificate definitions; changes to the personal effects derogation; a new certificate for sample collections; and a requirement for caviar processing plants to be registered.

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 318/2008 (CITES) came into effect on 11 April 2008. It replaced 1332/2005 and made amendments to the species listed on the Annexes of Council Regulation 338/97, implementing the changes to the Appendices agreed at the 14th Conference of CITES Parties in June 2007.

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1037/2007 (CITES) came into effect on 1 October 2007. It suspends the introduction into the EC of certain species of wild fauna and flora. It also repealed Commission Regulation (EC) No. 349/2003 of 25 February 2003.

Planning Permission: Upchurch

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on planning permission: Upchurch, when the Environment Agency's investigation will be completed; and what consideration the Agency has given to taking legal action following completion of its investigation. [209934]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The Environment Agency's observation and investigation has, to date, revealed no evidence of illegal activity upon which it can act. The Environment Agency continues to support the multi agency group in its ongoing investigations and regulation of activities on site.

Medway Unitary Authority is leading on regulation at Four Gun Field under the terms of the paragraph 24 exemption which it registered in respect of the crushing activities at the site.

Rivers: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the current and future condition of the chalk rivers of Hertfordshire. [209570]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency set up the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) Programme in 1999 to identify and catalogue those sites which may be at risk from unsustainable abstraction. The aim of the RSA programme is to implement solutions to improve the flow and ecology of rivers.

The Environment Agency is currently investigating a number of rivers within Hertfordshire including the Gade, Bulbourne, Mimram, Beane, Ver, Colne, Rib and Stort.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to encourage improved water flow in the chalk rivers of Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [209609]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency and Three Valleys Water are currently seeking solutions to the long-term challenge of reversing the impact of over-abstraction on flow levels within the Hertfordshire Chalk streams.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the ecology of the chalk rivers of Hertfordshire of current rates of water abstraction. [209634]

Mr. Woolas: The ecological quality of chalk rivers is assessed by the Environment Agency using nationally recognised procedures. Invertebrates, fish and aquatic plants are regularly monitored. The precise number of monitored sites and the frequency of sampling varies from river to river and is related to the severity of low flows thought to be attributed to abstraction.

The Environment Agency uses monitoring results in the development of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). As a result the Upper Lee and Colne have been given 'over abstracted' status. This defines a future licensing strategy to prevent further over-abstraction and to improve current status.

Water Supply

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to introduce additional enforcement measures to ensure water efficiency; [209635]

(2) what estimate he has made of the reduction in average daily household water usage in the East of England likely to be achieved on an annual basis by 2021; and if he will make a statement; [209641]

(3) what his benchmark figure is for daily household water usage *(a)* in new developments and *(b)* in all developments; [209657]

(4) what estimate he has made of daily household water usage in Hertfordshire. [209658]

Mr. Woolas: A minimum benchmark figure for the design of new homes will be established by revision of the building regulations to be introduced in April 2009. The design performance standard of 125 litres per person per day is proposed. Additional benchmarks have been established in The Code for Sustainable Homes which set out higher levels of water efficiency. The ambition of an average daily household water usage of 130 litres per person per day by 2030, or less, within existing developments, was set out in the Government's water strategy 'Future Water'.

Daily household water usage data are reported by Ofwat in their Security of Supply Report. The average per capita consumption for consumers of Three Valleys Water who supply consumers in Hertfordshire was 168 litres per person per day in 2006-07.

Water companies are currently consulting on their draft Water Resource Management Plans; these set out their views on the future level of water consumption between 2010 and 2035.

The new water efficiency requirements to be introduced within Part G of Building Regulations and the review of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations will require improved water efficiency performance in new and existing premises, and will be enforced through current mechanisms set in both sets of Regulations.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Environment Agency on the sustainable level of daily household water usage. [209656]

Mr. Woolas: The level of sustainable daily household water usage will differ for each area and over time, as it needs to take into account how much water can be sustainably abstracted in one catchment area (which might change over time) and how much water is used by all water users.

The Environment Agency has developed catchment abstraction management strategies (CAMS). Each strategy reflects the amount of water available in the natural environment for sustainable abstraction and looks at whether there is a sustainable balance between it and the amount of water that is licensed for abstraction. Strategies are available from the Environment Agency's website.

The Government's strategy for water, 'Future Water', states our ambition to reduce per capita consumption of water through cost effective measures, to an average of 130 litres per person per day by 2030, or possibly even 120 litres per person per day depending on new technological developments and innovation. Any reduction in per capita consumption will contribute towards achieving a sustainable balance of supply and demand, and the Environment Agency has expressed support for the Government's ambition for water efficiency.

Water Supply: East of England

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether changes have been made in his Department's assessment of future *(a)* water demand and *(b)* water resource in (i) Hertfordshire and (ii) the Eastern Region since 2000 as a result of climate change; [209571]

(2) what quantity of water he estimates will be necessary for the new homes in Hertfordshire planned up to 2021; [209617]

(3) if he will make a statement on the planning and management of water supplies in the East of England; [209638]

(4) what contribution he expects to be made from future *(a)* demand management and *(b)* resource development in providing water for homes in the East of England by 2021; [209640]

(5) much water is available in Hertfordshire for supply to new homes. [209659]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. As part of the Agency's management role it has both national and regional water resource strategies which set out the pressures over the next 25 years.

Water companies have statutory duties to maintain adequate supplies of water. On 1 April 2007 it became a statutory requirement for water companies to prepare and maintain previously voluntary water resources management plans. These are 25 year plans which complement the Agency strategies and seek to reconcile supply with anticipated demand using the twin-track approach of considering the need for new resources, such as reservoirs, in parallel with the full range of options for reducing demand. New resources should be developed only where the scope for managing demand is clearly insufficient or unjustified in terms of cost.

The planning authorities are statutory consultees on the water company water resources management plans, which means that the water companies can be provided with information on proposed large scale developments in their supply areas. The water companies are also statutory consultees on Regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks, in the East of England and elsewhere, and should work with plan making bodies in drawing up these plans, so that the necessary coordination can occur.

Water companies are currently holding the first public consultations on their draft water resource management plans, providing any interested parties will the opportunity to make representations on the content of the plans. Each water company, in the East of England and elsewhere, has to publish a statement in response to the representation, and if the response is not considered to be adequate the Secretary of State can direct them to make further changes.

The Environment Agency now has Catchment abstraction management strategies (CAMS) in place throughout England and Wales, including the East of England, which provide transparency in the allocation of water resources. CAMS provide a consistent and structured approach to local water resources management, recognising the reasonable needs of all abstractors and the needs of the environment. CAMS enable the consideration of how much water can be abstracted from watercourses without damaging the environment. They will provide more local detail on the availability of water in Hertfordshire and the East of England more generally, and will allow a detailed assessment of where action may be needed to deal with problems of over abstraction.

In October 2007, the Chancellor announced a new Public Service Agreement on climate change. Sustainable abstraction, as measured through the water availability status in catchments, is the chosen indicator of the extent to which we are adapting to climate change. The achievement and maintenance of sustainable abstraction requires that policy is adaptable to changing climatic conditions. This indicator captures efforts to reduce demand and use water efficiently, and long-term planning to ensure resilience of water supply. It reflects the totality of abstraction impacts from local to national level.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of drought conditions in Hertfordshire by 2021. [209636]

Mr. Woolas: Based on climate change scenarios derived from Hadley Centre's Regional Climate Model which suggests that the frequency of 'short' droughts, lasting one or two seasons, would increase significantly by the 2050s and be commonplace by the 2080s, it is expected that there will be an increase in the frequency of short droughts in Hertfordshire by 2021. These projections are based on modelling studies that contain inherent uncertainties, meaning that the actual frequency of droughts that will be experienced in future may be more or less than these estimates.

All water companies, including those supplying Hertfordshire, will need to identify measures to increase resilience of water supply against increased frequency of drought in their Water Resources Management Plans, which are currently subject to consultation. These measures should include demand and supply side options to maintain a supply-demand balance.

Water companies have statutory drought plans which set out how a company will meet essential demands for water in times of drought. Drought plans are prepared every three years and are subject to public consultation.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what *(a)* representations he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the sustainability and acceptability of the abstraction regime in Hertfordshire on summer surface water availability; [209637]

(2) what estimate he has made of the potential for increased water capacity from the Abberton reservoir to be deployed in Hertfordshire; [209639]

(3) how much unused water capacity there was in each county in the East of England on the last date for which figures are available; [209660]

(4) what estimate he has made of the extent to which Hertfordshire is water-stressed; and if he will make a statement. [209661]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. It now has catchment abstraction management strategies (CAMS) in place which provide transparency in the allocation of water resources. CAMS provide a consistent and structured approach to local water resources management, recognising the reasonable needs of all abstractors and the needs of the environment. CAMS enable the consideration of how much water can be abstracted from watercourses without damaging the environment. They provide local detail on the availability of water and allow a detailed assessment of where action may be needed to deal with problems of over abstraction.

The first set of CAMS has been completed and information on water resources in Hertfordshire and the east of England can be found on the Environment Agency website. I am not aware of representations having been made to the Secretary of State on the results of the relevant CAMS documents.

The CAMS process is currently being reviewed. The new process should strengthen links with other water resources initiatives to improve water management in the future.

The expansion of Abberton reservoir is the subject of an application for planning permission to the relevant planning authority. Should the reservoir be expanded, then the potential use of its water in Hertfordshire will be a matter for the water company operating the reservoir and the water companies supplying Hertfordshire.

The Secretary of State has designated all water companies serving Hertfordshire as operating in areas of serious water stress, for the purposes of accelerating domestic metering of water supply where there is a resources case to do so. This designation allows the companies concerned to make a case for compulsory metering in the water resources management plans. Where the Secretary of State agrees the case has been made, then the companies will be allowed to pursue a programme of compulsory metering.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Public Safety Zones

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 425W, on airports: public safety zones, what factors will be taken into account in deciding the order in which the public safety zones will be reviewed under the phased review. [210723]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The principal factor in deciding the order of review of public safety zones will be the increase in total aircraft movements against the forecast figure provided when the current zones were established; airports showing the strongest growth will be the first reviewed.

It is likely that a small number of airports will be taken out of order to reflect local circumstances such as airport development.

Aviation: Scotland

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1895W, on railways: Scotland, what work she has asked Network Rail to undertake regarding a high speed rail link between England and Scotland. [209262]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is developing longer term options for the railway network, and this will include consideration of new lines, both conventional and high speed.

Biofuels: Air Pollution

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the effect on air quality of use of bio-fuels. [210061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have commissioned and published various pieces of research into the effects of biofuels on air quality. These include an evaluation of the impacts of vegetable oil fuel on the emissions of two light duty diesel vehicles and an evaluation of the potential impact of bioethanol on emissions of a wide range of air pollutants (available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/cqvcf/dftbiofuelsevaluationofemiss3823

and

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/ethanolemissionstestingmainr3843

or by navigating from the Department for Transport's home page (www.dft.gov.uk) to DfT home > Policy, guidance and research > Roads and vehicles > Environmental issues > Research, and then > Ethanol Emissions Testing: Main Report or > Cleaner and Quieter Vehicles and Cleaner Fuels > DfT biofuels evaluation of emissions performance from vegetable oil fuel).

Bus Services: Concessions

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are measures in place to penalise those local transport authorities which do not issue bus passes for free travel to local elderly and disabled people within certain times. [209929]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Travel concession authorities have a legal obligation to issue a concessionary travel pass to any person who appears to that authority to be eligible for concessionary travel. The legislation does not include any explicit statutory time limits by which an authority must issue a pass, although the statutory wording implies that the permits should be issued within a reasonable period of time. Travel concession authorities failing to supply permits within a reasonable period of time may be vulnerable to legal challenge.

CTRL/London and Continental Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the expected proceeds of the sale of the Government's interests in CTRL/London and Continental Railways. [209064]

Mr. Tom Harris: The intention of the Government is to agree a restructuring and sale of London and Continental Railways Ltd. in a way which maximises value for money for the taxpayer.

The timing of that sale will depend on the pace of restructuring and market conditions closer to the time.

The Government would not wish to publish an estimate of expected proceeds; to do so might compromise the competitive sale process and damage value.

Cycleways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the number of miles of cycle routes in the National Cycle Network. [209285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Sustrans, the Transport Charity is the co-ordinator of the National Cycle Network (NCN). The Network consists of over 12,000 miles of walking and cycle routes on traffic-free paths, quiet lanes and traffic-calmed roads.

The Department for Transport continues to fund Links to School from the NCN. We have contributed over £18 million to link over 600 schools to the network. We plan to contribute funding for a further 250 links to approximately 500 schools through Cycling England's current work programme.

Cycleways: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average cost per mile of new cycle path construction. [209071]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local highway authorities are responsible for the delivery of cycle tracks and paths. They do so within their unring-fenced block grant for Local Transport.

The Department therefore does not hold information on cycle track/path construction costs. Furthermore the cost of an off-road cycle track/path varies greatly, especially depending on the design and location.

Sustrans, the promoters of the National Cycle Network estimate that the average cost of a mile of off-road cycle track costs around £45,000.

Cycling: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support her Department provides to assist the development of cycle networks in Bournemouth. [209677]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The responsibility for the development of cycle networks in Bournemouth rests with the local council, as the local highway authority.

The Department for Transport encourages all local authorities to develop a cycling strategy as part of their Local Transport Plan (LTP). I understand Bournemouth borough council produce a joint LTP with the borough of Poole council. DfT has awarded their joint LTP the following block grant for local transport for the next three years from which cycle projects could be funded.

Integrated transport block allocations

	£000
2008-09	4,296
2009-10	4,512
2010-11	4,726

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date her Department's Permanent Secretary took up the post. [209282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Robert Devereux was appointed permanent secretary for the Department with effect from 30 May 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of her Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208401]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport recorded the following current data:

	Total	*Percentage*
Total Staff	19,543	
Number of male	11,227	57.45
Number of female	8,316	42.55
Number ethnicity - white	16,138	82.58
Number ethnicity - ethnic minority (ALL)	1,017	5.20
Number ethnicity - not stated	2,388	12.22
Number of disabled	1,449	7.41

Data on sexual orientation is not currently collected across the Department for Transport nor published centrally.

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is given to her staff on use of sustainable travel for business purposes. [209048]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies base their travel policy on the requirement that travel should only be undertaken where necessary, and after alternatives have been considered. Public transport should be used wherever possible.

Additional measures, such as detailed travel plans, are being developed and rolled out throughout the Department to reinforce the commitment to sustainability and the lowering of environmental impact. In addition, the central Department has published a sustainable travel site on its intranet which offers advice on alternatives to travel, and on sustainable travel choices.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether sustainability of mode of travel is taken into account by her Department when approving staff travel expenses. [209049]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies operate travel policies that only permit travel to be undertaken when it is necessary and after alternatives have been considered, and stipulate that public transport should be used wherever possible. Management checks and approval of claims must include compliance with travel policy.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department paid in staff travel costs in each of the last three years, broken down by mode of transport. [209050]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel spend is accounted differently across the Department for Transport and its agencies, and hence it is not possible to provide a consistent breakdown by mode. Travel spend in 2005-06 was £12,650,748, in 2006-07 it was £13,574,340, and in 2007-08 £12,863,666. These figures do not include VOSA as the agency does not hold this information and so could not provide it without disproportionate cost. DSA figures are only included in the 2007-08 total, as the accounting system used before that period did not separate travel from other costs. The 2007-08 total does not include DFT(C) as the information for that year is not currently available.

Driving Tests: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Oral Statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 624-26, on data storage and use, when her Permanent Secretary was first informed of the loss of information by Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd. from its facility in Iowa City. [209281]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1008W.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Fuels

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Despatch Agency spent on *(a)* petrol, *(b)* diesel and *(c)* other vehicle fuel in each of the last five years. [209444]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2003-04 the Government Car and Despatch Agency has spent £3,352,937 on vehicle fuels as follows:

			£
	Petrol	*Diesel*	*LPG*
2003-04	414,493	192,161	26,400
2004-05	403,895	193,550	35,162
2005-06	449,797	225,131	48,291
2006-07	390,574	265,025	32,583
2007-08	303,139	371,055	1,982

From 2005-06 onwards, vehicles in the van-based Government mail fleet ended their operational life and were replaced by diesel powered vans because these proved to be more reliable and efficient. This accounts for the sharp fall on the use of LPG in the last two years.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on Heathrow Airport, (1) which technical studies and documents regarding Heathrow expansion proposals have been made available to key stakeholders since 2003; [209249]

(2) which key stakeholders have been given access to technical studies regarding Heathrow expansion proposals conducted by her Department since 2003. [209250]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The only stakeholders given access to the Heathrow work were those directly involved in providing technical input, namely the Civil Aviation Authority, NATS and BAA. It is not practicable to list all the documents which respective parties have seen since 2003. The outcome of the work is represented by the Heathrow consultation document and the series of supporting technical reports issued last November, seven of which were provided variously by NATS and the CAA.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effect of Heathrow Airport expansion on the level of chargeable landing fees by the airport operator. [209272]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The costs and benefits of additional capacity at Heathrow airport are set out in annex B (impact assessment) of "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", November 2007, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/

Further details of the methods used to estimate these costs and benefits are set out in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", November 2007, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

No assessment of the likely effect of additional capacity at Heathrow airport on the level of landing fees charged by the airport operator has been made.

The level of landing fees charged by the airport operator with additional capacity would be a matter for the airport operator, airlines, and the CAA.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what basis and by whom the assumptions referred to in paragraph 2.47 of Annex B to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document were made. [209277]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The assumptions are based on the Department for Transport future passenger forecasts with additional Heathrow capacity as set out in "Future of Air Transport White Paper supporting document Passenger Forecasts: Additional Analysis (December 2003)". As stated in the consultation document, this analysis is preliminary and does not form part of the overall Heathrow net present value (NPV) calculations. The tourism analysis is currently being updated in line with latest information, feedback from consultation responses and input from the Heathrow impact assessment peer review process.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 953-4W, on Heathrow airport, what role was played by BAA in developing the economic impact assessment on Heathrow expansion set out in Annex B of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation document. [209305]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Annex B of the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document, which assesses the potential impacts of options for adding capacity at Heathrow airport, was prepared by Department for Transport officials in line with the Better Regulation Executive's impact assessment guidance. As such it draws upon information from a range of sources, including BAA.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1014W, on Heathrow Airport, which *(a)* existing guidelines and *(b)* long-term targets recommended by the World Health Organisation were taken into account when preparing options for expansion included in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document; [209443]

(2) how many people live in areas of the UK where aviation noise is classif[illegible] as dangerous by the World Health Organisation. [209446]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The reference in my earlier reply of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1014W, to WHO guidelines and long-term targets was in the context of noise policy generally, and was not specific to Heathrow.

The WHO guidelines for community noise (WHO, 1999) are essentially values for the onset of health effects. These are levels that would produce no significant health effects for the population at large. The WHO have recommended that the guidelines should be adopted as long term targets for improving human health which the Government have stated that they will take into account.

The WHO guideline targets and the Government definition of significant community annoyance are not incompatible but do not read across directly. The WHO values are set at the level below which there is no impact from annoyance on human health the Government value is set in terms of community annoyance.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if her Department will commission an independent assessment of the information provided by BAA for the preparation of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation document. [209664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1383W.

Highways Agency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which bodies the Highways Agency is accountable. [209058]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is an Executive agency of the Department for Transport and is accountable to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Highways Agency: Complaints

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what formal complaint mechanisms are open to members of the public in relation to decisions taken by the Highways Agency. [209057]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has a formal complaints procedure called Putting Things Right, which is published on its website. The procedure involves three stages: a local review, a review by the chief executive and a further review by an independent complaints assessor.

Highways Agency: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been received by the Highways Agency since the Act came into operation. [209056]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has received 790 requests under the Freedom of Information Act since 1 January 2005 when the Act came into operation.

M1: Safety Barriers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the maintenance of the safety barriers on the M1 motorway at Newport Pagnell Service Station and Little Linford Lane; and when the work will be completed. [208205]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance of safety barriers on the M1 motorway. They have recently completed the repair of accident damage to the safety barrier on the northbound entry slip road to the Motorway Service Area (MSA).

Newport Pagnell MSA is a site that is owned by the Secretary of State and leased to Welcome Break Ltd. for the provision of services to those travelling on the motorway. Under the terms of the lease, maintenance issues such as safety barriers within the boundaries of the MSA site are the responsibility of the site operator.

Little Linford Road is the responsibility of Milton Keynes Council.

M6

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects the Highways Agency to implement its proposals for widening the M6 between junctions 11A and 19; and what estimate she has made of the cost of the scheme; [209288]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, on the M1:M62, when she expects the Highways Agency to publish its findings on active traffic management measures for the M62 and M1. [209289]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 4 March 2008 the Secretary of State published the 'Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study'. The Secretary of State also announced that the Department of Transport and the Highways Agency would undertake additional detailed work examining managed motorway schemes for those areas identified in the feasibility study as being a high priority, including stretches of the M1, M6 and M62. This includes examining whether hard shoulder running could provide a better value for money solution for schemes which were previously planned as widenings, and this will include the production of cost estimates for these hard shoulder running schemes.

As part of this process, the cost estimates for the widening schemes following the Nichols review are subject to further work and validation. This work is under way and due to be complete by the end of the year. The results of this work will inform decisions on the composition of the roads programme and the timing of schemes within it.

Parking

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much staff are charged to park in the car parking facilities provided at each building operated by her Department and its agencies. [209053]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not charge staff to park in any of the car parking facilities it provides.

Railway Stations

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail stations will be upgraded as indicated in the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, in the next control period; and what her timetable is for such upgrades. [209329]

Mr. Tom Harris: Major improvements to the stations at Reading and Birmingham New Street are expected to be completed by 2014.

The Thameslink Programme includes major improvements at Blackfriars (completion expected by 2011-12), Farringdon (completion expected by 2011-12) and London Bridge (completion expected by 2015). More modest improvements are also expected at City Thameslink station for completion by the end of 2009, and at a number of outer area stations, most of which will be completed in the period 2009-14.

Kings Cross station is being upgraded with a new concourse and is expected to be complete by 2012. There are also plans to upgrade Waterloo station, including making use of the former international terminal for domestic rail services, which will be progressed during the period 2009-14.

A list of candidate stations for funding under the National Stations Improvement Programme was included as part of the April 2008 refresh of Network Rail's strategic business plan. The industry is continuing to refine this list and expects to be in a position to start confirming some of the stations in the programme later in the year.

There will also be platform lengthening work across the network to accommodate longer trains throughout the period 2009-14.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the class of travel which staff in her Department are entitled to claim as an expense. [209047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All business travel by staff of the Department for Transport and its agencies is undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code. Staff are required to use the most cost effective means of travel appropriate to each journey.

The Department and five of its agencies allow first class rail travel where necessary for senior grades (typically SEO equivalent and above). All others must use standard class except when necessarily accompanying senior colleagues, or where use of the higher class is unavoidable. Air travel is restricted to economy class or equivalent for flights up to 2.5 hours duration, and to business class or equivalent for longer flights.

Two agencies operate variations on this policy. VGA stipulate that staff must always travel by the most cost effective manner, and VOSA require standard or economy class to be used for all journeys unless there are unavoidable reasons to upgrade.

Railways: Standards

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2914W, on c2c Line/One Rail to the hon. Member for Southend West, and the Answer of 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 562W, on train operating companies to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington, how many trains were cancelled in the last 12 months, broken down by train operating company; and what the reason was for each cancellation. [209033]

Mr. Tom Harris: The numbers of franchised passenger trains cancelled in the year to 31 March 2008, broken down by train operating company, are given in the following table.

The reasons for each individual cancellation are not held by the Department.

Train operating company	*Number of cancellations*
ATW	1,394
c2c	1,249
Chiltern	715
Cross Country	1,267
East Midlands	2,197
FCC	4,280
FGW	8,153
First Scotrail	7,708
Gatwick Express	334
London Midland	5,622
London Overground	2,376
Merseyrail	1,847
Northern	8,670
NXEA	7,307
NXEC	997
Southeastern	4,614
Southern	5,627
South Western	3,890
TPE	897
Virgin West Coast	678
Network total	69,822

In total, this represents 1.2 per cent. of the trains which were scheduled to operate.

Road Traffic: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will visit Canvey Island during the rush hour period to meet residents and commuters to discuss ways to reduce congestion. [209629]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State for Transport is very aware of the issues facing Canvey Island, particularly when a road traffic collision occurs. At this stage in time, however, the Secretary of State's diary does not permit a visit. However, it is hoped a future ministerial visit to see progress with a range of transport projects in the Thames Gateway area could be arranged.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure road maintenance meets high quality standards. [209945]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The maintenance of local roads is the responsibility of local highway authorities. The Department for Transport endorses "Well-maintained Highways", the code of practice for highway maintenance produced by the UK Roads Board. This, together with its companion codes, "Well-lit Highways" and "Management of Highway Structures" provide best practice guidance—all to be found at:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

The Highways Agency manages the trunk road network in England. Maintenance assessment and design standards are stipulated in the Design Manual for Road and Bridges and their implementation is guided by the Network Management Manual, the Manual of Contract Documents for Highways Works and a number of best practice advice notes. In addition, the Agency has comprehensive technical appraisal and prioritisation processes to help develop a consistent and robust road maintenance programme. The Agency works in partnership with road users, local communities, its managing agents and suppliers to develop its programme. The performance of their managing agents and their suppliers is monitored and reviewed regularly.

Roads: Safety

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average cost of installing a speed hump. [209072]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of road humps can vary considerably, depending on the materials used. The indicative costs of constructing various types of road humps are shown in the following table which is extracted from Table 4.2 of 'Local Transport Note 1/07 Traffic Calming' which constitutes the Department for Transport's latest guidance on traffic calming.

Hump type	*Cost (£)*
Round-top hump	400-1,000
Flat-top hump	>500
Raised junction	approx.10,000
'S' hump	2,000

Hump type	*Cost (£)*
'H' hump	2500
Thermoplastic hump (thump)	300-5[illegible]
Speed cushion	240-700
Pair of speed cushions	500-2000

Note:

Table shows the indicative cost of road humps. Costs given are approximate and for guidance only and do not include an allowance for inflation since the reports informing these prices were published.

Shipping: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from what sources information on cargo lost at sea is obtained and collated by the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea. [208920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) collates data on oil and chemical pollution including packages lost at sea in the UK pollution control zone. Most reports are gathered through MCA Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) in the form of pollution reports (POLREPs). Those reports are collated into a database.

In addition to reports received by the MRCCs, ACOPS also receives information from local authorities, ports and harbours and the UK environmental regulators.

From this data, ACOPs produces an annual report on behalf of the MCA. These annual reports are published on the MCA website.

Every 10 years, ACOPS reviews all reports of packaged and dangerous goods in order to examine trends of lost cargo over time. The International Maritime Organisation is consulted in respect of the review of such trends.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many successful prosecutions of drivers exceeding the speed limit in SPECS sites on the *(a)* M25 and *(b)* M11 there were in each of the last five years. [209814]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. Statistics on prosecutions for speeding relate to police force areas, not specific roads or sites, and do not identify types of camera used to provide evidence.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on consultants on the specification for the new Thameslink rolling stock; and for what reason this matter was not deemed to be the responsibility of the rolling stock companies. [208921]

Mr. Tom Harris: As of the 31 May 2008, the Department of Transport has spent approximately £1.1 million on the development of the procurement exercise to provide the new Thameslink rolling stock. This includes support from financial, legal and technical consultants.

In electing to lead the procurement, the Department identified that Thameslink is a highly complex programme with a clear requirement for the rolling stock specification and delivery to be aligned with the infrastructure works and planned train service operations. Successful integration of these elements sits with the Department. The Department also identified that there is a requirement for optimising the value of the investment and a need to address the aims of the Rail Technical Strategy published in July 2007.

We considered that these issues were less likely to be fully addressed by a market led approach and there was a need for departmental leadership to ensure that the objectives of the Thameslink rolling stock programme are fully realised.

Transport

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is taken of the time taken for journeys by different modes of transport when appraising transport schemes. [210055]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport appraises proposed transport schemes using the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA). Journey time impacts across all modes of transport are included in every NATA appraisal, and form an important element of the benefits of transport interventions.

For the purpose of valuing changes in the duration of journeys NATA distinguishes between working, commuting and leisure trips. This reflects a large body of evidence on the values of time spent travelling. The values used in appraisal are provided by the WebTAG resource available at:

http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/3_Expert/5_Economy_Objective/3.5.6.htm

Most journey time savings typically accrue to people who are travelling in their own time, and are valued at either £5.04 per hour or £4.46 in 2002 prices, depending on whether time is saved from a journey to work or another destination. This is irrespective of the mode used.

Transport schemes also reduce times taken for work-related journeys. These benefits are valued according to the average labour costs of individuals who travel by different modes of transport. The average value of working time across all working persons is £26.73 in 2002 prices. Further details of the values of working time applied in transport appraisals are set out in table 1 in the transport analysis guidance unit linked to above. A copy of the table follows. These do differ by mode: evidence indicates that business travellers are selective in the modes used during work, with the most productive business trips using taxi, with rail and underground also being of high value.

Table 1: Values of working time per person

Vehicle occupant	*£ per hour, 2002 prices and values* *Market price*
Car driver	26.43
Car passenger	18.94
LGV (driver or passenger)	10.18
OGV (driver or passenger)	10.18
PSV driver	10.18
PSV passenger	20.22

Table 1: Values of working time per person

£ per hour, 2002 prices and values

Vehicle occupant	*Market price*
Taxi driver	9.77
Taxi/Minicab passenger	44.69
Rail passenger	36.96
Underground passenger	35.95
Walker	29.64
Cyclist	17.00
Motorcyclist	23.91
Average of all working persons	26.73

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library the databases used to calculate the average carbon dioxide emissions per person per journey within Great Britain via the Transport Direct website. [209074]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A spreadsheet showing the CO_2 values used for each mode of transport as at 4 June 2008 and also the other assumptions used to calculate journey distances has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Much of this information is available to Transport Direct users in the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of the website.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Community Support Officers

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will make a statement on the introduction of police community support officers as recommended by the Patten Report; [208970]

(2) what financial arrangements have been made for the introduction of police community support officers in Northern Ireland; [208971]

(3) what the timescale is for the introduction of police community support officers as recommended in the Patten Report. [208972]

Paul Goggins: The evidence from England and Wales is that PCSOs can play an important role, alongside police and other police support staff, in making communities safer and providing public reassurance on local issues of concern.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has received a resource allocation in excess of £1.1 billion for each of the three years of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07). The timing of the introduction of PCSOs is a matter for the Chief Constable to consider, in consultation with the Policing Board.

Fuels: Smuggling

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of the distribution or sale of illegal fuel in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [210067]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

In the last 12 months, eight people have been convicted of hydrocarbon oils fraud in Northern Ireland. In that period, six have been arrested in relation to suspected hydrocarbon oils fraud in cases which are being dealt with by information and summons.

In the same period, in mainland Great Britain, one case involving four defendants has reached the prosecution stage.

The number of people convicted in relation to hydrocarbon oils fraud in mainland Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the period 2007-08 will be published in the HMRC autumn performance report 2008, later this year.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

Homicide: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in the investigation of the murder of Thomas Devlin on 10 August 2005. [208967]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI are currently awaiting directions from the Public Prosecution Service in respect of their recommendations.

Offensive Weapons: Arrests

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons in Northern Ireland were arrested for an offence of possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article as a result of police usage of metal detection devices in the latest period for which figures are available. [209303]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> "The information sought is not recorded in the way requested but I can advise you that the total number of persons in Northern Ireland who were arrested for an offence of possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article between 01/04/2007 and 31/03/2008 was 568. Information regarding how many of these arrests were related to usage of metal detectors is not available".

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to encourage recruitment of young people from a Protestant background in inner city areas of Northern Ireland into the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [208234]

Paul Goggins: As recommended by the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, each Police Service of Northern Ireland recruitment campaign is advertised imaginatively and extensively through newspapers and the internet. This advertising is aimed at all parts of the community in Northern Ireland and covers both urban and rural areas.

The PSNI also attend a wide range of careers fairs and recruitment events in schools, colleges and communities across Northern Ireland.

Recruitment processes are constantly reviewed to ensure that they meet operational needs.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Accident Group

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on *(a)* allegations of audit failure at The Accident Group and *(b)* the investigation of such allegations by the Financial Reporting Council; and if he will make a statement. [209757]

Mr. Thomas: A check of records has revealed that such representations were received by the DTI from my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby and from the Association for Accountancy and Business Affairs.

Business: Females

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to launch the women's enterprise campaign; and what recent assessment he has made of trends in women's enterprise activity. [204293]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are determined that we maximise the untapped economic dividend for the UK from increasing female entrepreneurship rates. The US has 20 per cent. more businesses per head than the UK. A significant proportion of this gap is explained by much lower rates of women's entrepreneurial activity in the UK. This goes to the heart of the UK's productivity and competitiveness.

Discussions and market research are already under way with the aim of launching a Women's Enterprise Media Campaign "Spark an Idea" in September 2008. The campaign will be co-ordinated by Enterprise Insight, who are funded by my Department and which brings together an enterprise coalition of 25 national organisations from education, the voluntary sector, business and government. The campaign will specifically look to develop the awareness and potential of women who are under-represented in enterprise currently.

The campaign is an integral part of a strong package of measures on women's enterprise announced recently in the Government's Enterprise Strategy. Those measures include provision for: £12.5 million of Government capital through a women's investment fund; women's business centre pilots; enhanced mentoring support; a new national enterprise centre of expertise; and activity aimed at opening up procurement opportunities to women-owned businesses. More information on the strategy is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/enterprisestrategy

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken by his Department to implement the recommendations of the second limb of the Stern Report, with particular reference to *(a)* technological developments and *(b)* carbon capture storage policy. [208503]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR welcomes the release of Lord Stern's Key Elements of a Global Deal paper. We hope it will stimulate debate, and more importantly, action. The report's findings will continue to feed into the Government's thinking on climate change.

BERR is working to promote technology and investment cooperation both in the UK and overseas through a range of initiatives such as the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). It also works with the Technology Strategy Board, the Energy Technologies Institute, the Carbon Trust and the Research Councils to ensure a cohesive approach to innovation.

Between 2002 and 2008 the UK spent over £500 million on research and development in low carbon technologies, with funding continuing under the ETF. The creation of the Energy Technologies Institute in late 2007, a partnership between the public and private sectors, will coordinate up to £1 billion worth of RD and D funding into low carbon energy technology over the next 10 years.

The Government recognise the global potential of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and are working in a number of ways to support its development. This includes a competition to develop the UK's first commercial-scale demonstration of CCS and supporting smaller scale R and D and demonstration of CCS technology, developing EU and domestic regulatory regimes for the safe and reliable storage of CO_2 as well as amending international treaties to enable CCS technology. We are also working through the EU, G8, IEA and bilaterally to encourage the development and deployment of CCS internationally. Working towards a global consensus on the urgency of the need to demonstrate and deploy CCS has been a particular priority and we are working with EU partners to realise the Commission's ambition for up to 12 commercial scale CCS projects by 2015. We also strongly support the IEA's call to the G8 for 20 demonstration projects to be launched by 2010, and on leading the campaign to have this referred to in the final text at both the Energy Ministers and the Leaders Summit.

Coal: Exports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact on exports of British coal of other EU member states' coal industry state aids; and if he will make a statement. [209144]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2007, total UK coal production was approximately 17 million tonnes, predominantly of coal-fired electricity generation quality, the bulk of which was used within the UK. UK coal exports were under 0.6 million tonnes; this is understood to have included shipments to Ireland and Norway.

The 27 European Union states' import annually in the order of 120 million tonnes of coal from third countries for generation use.

Total UK coal imports in 2007 were approximately 43 million tonnes, of which 22 million tonnes was from Russia and 12 million tonnes from South Africa. With regard to trade with other coal producing EU member states, 852,000 tonnes were imported from Poland, 46,000 tonnes from Spain and 41,000 tonnes from Germany.

The impact of coal state aids under Council Regulation 1407/2002 on the coal market was considered as part of the report COM(2007)253 which, with its annex SEC(2007) 602, was published by the European Commission on 21 May 2007. This concluded that distortion of the coal market within the EU as a result of such aids seems to be limited by the fact that most subsidized coal covered by the Regulation is consumed in national markets, and that this suggests that there is little direct competition between coal produced in different member states. A possible exception is Germany, which has replaced parts of its indigenous production with imports from Poland and the Czech Republic.

Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of difficulties in obtaining credit on the commercial construction industry in the next three years; and what steps he plans to take to support the industry over that period. [207535]

Malcolm Wicks: We continue to keep the availability of credit to business under review in all sectors, including construction, and have regular dialogue with the banks. Lending to the UK construction sector has increased throughout the first quarter of 2008. However, we have concerns about the potential impact of the credit crunch on property markets and the consequences for construction activity. House builders, in particular, are experiencing a slow-down in activity, with lower site visits and forward reservations.

The Enterprise Strategy, published alongside the Budget, announced extended eligibility criteria for the small firms loan guarantee and a £60 million uplift in lending allocations designed to encourage greater usage of the scheme by the banks. Advice to businesses on managing their financial position in the current economic climate has been made available on businesslink.gov.uk Our proposed reforms to the 'Construction Act' published in the recent draft legislative programme 2008-09 will help promote better cash flow and greater certainty of payment in construction contracts.

In addition, the Government recently announced that the Housing Corporation will provide up to £200 million for RSLs to purchase newly built properties from developers, where these are of an appropriate quality and represent value for money. These will be made available for first-time buyers to purchase through the existing homebuy scheme or for social rented tenancies.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210564]

Mr. Thomas: In financial year 2007-08, the Department spent £5,664,000 and its agencies £1,714,000 on training.

Details of spend for preceding years are in the following table.

Expenditure

			£000
Financial year	*Department*	*Agencies*	*Total*
2006-07[1]	6,206	1,340	7,546
2005-06[2]	7,827	1,662	9,489
2004-05	7,730	2,072	9,802
2003-04	6,497	1,920	8,417
2002-03	6,327	1,449	7,776

[1] For 2006-07 and earlier years, figures represent spend by the former Department of Trade and Industry, including functions transferred in 2007-08 to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

[2] For 2005-06 and earlier years, agency figures include expenditure by the Employment Tribunals Service, which transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2006.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households he estimates will be removed from fuel poverty by the measures recently announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [208993]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling) announced in the Budget that the Government would work with energy suppliers to increase their spend on social programmes designed to help those vulnerable to fuel poverty. The Government reached individual agreements with each of the six largest suppliers in April to increase their collective spend to at least £1[illegible]0 million a year by 2010-11.

The impact of this additional funding on the fuel poverty numbers will depend on how it is directed. If it is purely used to offset bills and equally distributed among the poorest households, then it could help to remove up to 100,000 of these from fuel poverty. Other scenarios may bring different benefits—for example, energy efficiency measures may benefit fewer but will be permanent. Energy suppliers will be free to determine how they target the additional spend within certain parameters currently being developed by Ofgem.

In addition, the Chancellor announced a one-off additional supplement to the winter fuel payment of £50 for the over-60s and £100 for the over-80s. This will benefit around eight million pensioner households.

The Government also announced action to investigate and tackle the high differential between the cost of energy to customers using prepayment meters and those paying by direct debit. Around 11 per cent. of the fuel poor pay for their gas via prepayment meters and around 20 per cent. of the fuel poor use prepayment meters for their electricity. Ofgem is currently investigating and is due to report in September. Subsequent action will depend on the outcome of Ofgem's investigation.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to publicise the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to *(a)* homeowners and *(b)* local authorities. [208054]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are working with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household funding stream. To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants. Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

BERR is currently working with the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 programme manager, to deliver a national awareness raising campaign at a series of regional events. They have been promoting the scheme through combination of articles, advertorials and advertising in media serving all target sectors. 50,000 promotional flyers have been produced and distributed to journals and potential applicants. We expect around 700 people from eligible organisations and local authorities to participate in the events.

We also continue to investigate and pursue other avenues for promotion of the scheme. For example, working with colleagues from other Government Departments, BERR officials speak regularly at events and conferences to promote the programme. Promotional activities have also been undertaken by the framework suppliers of phase II of the LCBP.

We have also published an energy measures report for local authorities compiling information they can use to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the levels of microgeneration in their communities.

Further details of the report can be obtained from:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/measures/page41270.html

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in Houghton and Washington East constituency have had coal health claims settled since the scheme was introduced; and how much was paid out in relation to such claims. [208570]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of claimants in Houghton and Washington East constituency who have had Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease claims (COPD) and Vibration White Finger claims settled are shown in the following table as at 1 June 2008.

	Total claims settled[1]	*Total damages paid on settled claims (£ million)*
COPD	6,410	34.8
VWF	2,301	29.1
Total	8,711	63.9

[1] Total claims settled includes claims settled by payment, denial, withdrawal or strike out.

North Sea Oil

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many barrels of oil were produced from the North Sea in each of the last 30 years; and what estimate he has made of the number of barrels to be produced in each of the next 10 years. [209528]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The information requested is in the following table. Historical and projected data on UK crude oil and natural gas liquids (NGLs) in tonnes have been converted into barrels assuming there are 7.5 barrels per tonne. Historical data are from http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/oil/page18470.html while projections through to 2013 are from https://www.og.berr.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Section4_17.htm; a compound annual decline of 5.5 per cent. has been assumed thereafter.

UK production of oil and NGLs

	Million barrels
1978	405
1979	583
1980	604
1981	671
1982	774
1983	862
1984	945
1985	957
1986	953
1987	925
1988	858
1989	688
1990	687
1991	684
1992	707
1993	751
1994	949
1995	974
1996	972
1997	960
1998	994
1999	1,028
2000	945
2001	875
2002	870
2003	796
2004	715
2005	635
2006	574
2007	576
2008	539
2009	509
2010	484
2011	461
2012	437
2013	411
2014	388
2015	367
2016	346
2017	327

Piracy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps have been taken *(a)* by the UK and *(b)* with other countries to protect (i) marine trade routes and (ii) critical parts of marine trade routes to and from the UK from (A) piracy, (B) accidents and (C) other forms of disruption; what assessment has been made of the levels of such risks on each route; and if he will make a statement. [210132]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government take a proactive role in working with our international partners, such as the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and foreign governments and the shipping industry to develop international legislation and guidance for shipping transiting trade routes. At both Government and operational levels this includes collaborating with other navies and coastguards through a series of combined operations and strategic alliances to ensure that the vital sea lanes and choke points are safe to navigate. Also, the Government monitor and assess the risk of terrorism to sea lanes and, as appropriate, set the security level for UK and Red Ensign Group registered ships operating in these areas and advise industry accordingly.

The Government also issue guidance to industry in measures to counter piracy and armed robbery and safe distances of transit in piracy hotspots.

Recently, the UK co-sponsored the UNSC resolution addressing the problem of piracy off Somalia. Under the terms of resolution 1816 (2008), which was adopted unanimously, the Security Council decided that states co-operating with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) would be allowed, for a period of six months, to enter the country's territorial waters and use "all necessary means" to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of international law.

Furthermore, the Government are committed to ratifying into UK law the 2005 protocols to the convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, by way of the proposed Transport Security Bill. Notably, this Bill will provide powers to board ships that are suspected of being involved in acts of piracy.

The UK plays an active role in the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee and Subcommittee on the Safety of Navigation to prevent accidents at sea. In this forum we seek consensus on ships' routeing measures to reduce the risk of groundings or collisions.

Where UK waters are concerned, moreover, the Government have a strategic approach to protecting the UK's seas and coasts which involves all of the following:

we have put in place a network of shore-based stations around the UK coastline to monitor vessel traffic, using automatic identification system technology;

we ensure that powerful tugs (commonly referred to as "emergency towing vessels") are available, so that they can assist ships which lose motive power;

we have established arrangements whereby a ship requiring assistance, and whose condition needs to be stabilised, can be brought to a place of refuge;

we have a highly effective structure for command and control of an incident, in which the Secretary of State's representative for maritime salvage and intervention (SOSREP) plays a major role;

we have a fully developed national contingency plan, consistent with the international convention on oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation 1990 (the "OPRC Convention"); and

we participate actively in international assistance and co-operation arrangements of a bipartite, multipartite or regional nature, again consistent with the OPRC convention.

Renewable Energy: Seas and Oceans

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has commissioned research into the potential siting of generators which capture energy from very large ocean swell; and if he will make a statement. [201938]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has published detailed information on the UK's wave energy resource in the "Atlas of UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources: A Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, March 2008". This can be accessed on the Department's Strategic Environmental Assessment website at:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=21&documentedID=25.

Retail Trade: Competition

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Competition Commission's final report into the UK grocery market to be published; and if he will make a statement. [210659]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission's final report into the UK grocery market was published on 30 April. The full report and annexes can be found at

http://www.competition-commission.gov.uk/inquiries/ref2006/grocery/groceries_inquiry_news.htm

The Government expect to publish their response before the summer recess.

Solar Power: Boilers

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit the sale of domestic boilers that are incompatible with solar water-heating panels; and if he will make a statement. [209368]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

It is not necessary to prohibit the sale of any domestic boiler as they all have the potential to be compatible with solar water-heating panels. However, there are criteria that have to be observed when incorporating a solar water-heating panel within a boiler-based heating system to ensure its safe operation.

Tidal Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made with Pulse Tidal's Humber tidal stream energy test project; and if he will make a statement. [208501]

Malcolm Wicks: On 7 April 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State granted consent under the Transport and Works Act 1992 to Pulse Tidal Ltd. for their prototype tidal stream generator at Upper Burcom on the River Humber. Although construction and operation of the device is now a matter for Pulse Tidal to take forward, I understand that construction of the device has begun.

Wind Power

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the costs are estimated to be of connecting to the National Grid proposed windfarms estimated to be necessary to meet Government targets; what estimate he has made of the lengths of overhead pylons required to connect such windfarms to the Grid; and if he will make a statement. [207905]

Malcolm Wicks: Investment in electricity networks is made by the Transmission Owners and Distribution Network Operators under the regulatory supervision of Ofgem.

In terms of investment over the next few years, Ofgem have agreed £560 million of investment in the transmission network specifically to connect new renewable generation in Scotland and the North of England. In the Transmission Price Control, which covers the five year period from 1 April 2007, a further £3.8 billion of investment in the transmission network was agreed. This figure includes both refurbishment and the costs of connecting new generators of all types and may increase if warranted by generator demand.

The Department is currently preparing a document that will be published as part of the Government's consultation on developing a strategy for achieving the UK's contribution towards the European Union renewable energy target of 20 per cent. by 2020. Delivering our contribution is likely to require a significant increase in renewable electricity that goes beyond our current target of 10 per cent. by 2010 and the aspiration to increase it to 20 per cent. by 2020.

An independent study commissioned in support of this work is considering electricity network related issues including the estimated costs and scale of any additional network infrastructure that will be needed to meet the EU target. The study considers a range of scenarios and the final report will be published together with the consultation document.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what factors are taken into account when his Department assesses applications for new offshore wind farms. [208504]

Malcolm Wicks: In considering applications for offshore wind farms, Ministers will consider all relevant factors that are drawn to their attention by members of the public, the Government's statutory advisers and others with an interest in the proposed development and set these against the need for electricity generation from renewable energy sources.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Sports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sports facilities are available to service personnel and their families on each base, broken down by *(a)* base, *(b)* facilities and *(c)* cost to users. [209580]

Derek Twigg: Records held by Defence Estates indicate the following numbers of sports facilities exist in the UK and overseas (figures are approximate):

	Number
Sports pavilions	180
Sports halls	430
Sports pitches	440
Sports tracks	140
Squash courts	230
Swimming pools	70
Tennis courts	480

To provide more comprehensive or detailed information or to break facilities down on a site by site basis would entail disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which units Colombian state security forces came who received training at UK military establishments in each year since 2002; and how many Colombian state security services personnel received training at UK military establishments in each year since 2002. [210389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not record the units of foreign personnel receiving training at UK military establishments. 21 Colombian personnel, in total, have commenced training in the UK since 2002. The numbers attending by year, and their year of attendance, are given in the following table. The courses provided are educational courses for staff officers, or bomb disposal experts.

Fiscal year	*Number of Colombian students*
2001-02	1
2002-03	1
2003-04	5
2004-05	7
2005-06	2
2006-07	2
2007-08	3

Defence: Secondary Education

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who has *(a)* contributed resources to, *(b)* offered to develop and *(c)* taken part in online polls relating to the Defence Dynamics e-learning tool; [208881]

(2) what the results were of *(a)* the online polls and *(b)* the rating of lessons in relation to the Defence Dynamics e-learning tool website; [208882]

(3) what (*a*) representations he has received on and (*b*) audit he has conducted of the e-learning product Defence Dynamics; and if he will place in the Library copies of the representations received; [209037]

(4) how many students have used the e-learning product Defence Dynamics; [209038]

(5) how many people have registered on the Defence Dynamics website; [209039]

(6) who have registered on the Defence Dynamics website have (*a*) used interactive exercises, (*b*) registered a class, (*c*) used teaching materials, (*d*) accessed the multimedia library, (*e*) downloaded multimedia resources, (*f*) used forums, (*g*) filed a complaint and (*h*) reported technical problems; [209040]

(7) how many schools have (*a*) acquired and (*b*) used the multi-media tool Defence Dynamics cited at page 25 of the Report of the Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces. [209812]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departmental Official Residences

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what official residences are owned by his Department; and what the (*a*) office held by each resident, (*b*) address and (*c*) value is of each such residence. [208889]

Derek Twigg [*holding answer 5 June 2008*]: There are currently 32 Official Service Residences (OSR) which are listed in the following table. While the area in which the residence is located is given, the address has been withheld in the interests of security.

OSRs are properties either owned or leased by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and designated as a residence for a post which carries representational hosting responsibility for the entertainment and/or accommodation of senior or influential guests. It is the post and not the residence that carries OSR status.

Of the 22 OSR properties in Great Britain, 13 are MOD owned, eight are owned by Annington Homes Ltd. and one is part of a Royal Palace. Of the 10 OSR overseas, four are MOD owned, with the remainder provided by the host nation.

Market values of MOD-owned properties are not obtained unless disposal is proposed.

MOD Post Title	*OSR location*
Chief of Defence Staff	London
Vice Chief of Defence Staff	London
First Sea Lord/Chief of Naval Staff	London
Second Sea Lord/Commander in Chief, Naval Home Command	Portsmouth
Commodore/Britannia Royal Naval College	Dartmouth
Commander-in-Chief (CinC) FLEET	London
Deputy CinC FLEET	Portsmouth
Commander United Kingdom Amphibious Forces	Portsmouth
Flag Officer Sea Training	Plymouth
Flag Officer Northern England and Northern Ireland	Helensburgh
General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland	Lisburn
Chief of General Staff	London
Adjutant General	Tidworth
Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	Camberley
CinC LAND	Bulford
Commandant Allied Rapid Reaction Corps	Wegberg, Germany
GOC 1(UK) Div	Herford, Germany
GOC 2 DIV	Edinburgh
GOC London District	London
GOC United Kingdom Support Group (Germany)	Wegberg, Germany
CinC Air Command	Buckinghamshire
Chief of Air Staff	London
Deputy CinC Personnel	Buckinghamshire
Commandant RAF College	Cranwell
Commandant Joint Service Command and Staff College	Shrivenham
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe	Belgium
Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic	Virginia, USA
UK Military Representative	Brussels
Deputy Commander Joint Forces Command Brunssum	Netherlands
Joint Forces Command HQ Deputy Commander	Naples, Italy
Chief of Joint Operations London	London
Commander British Forces Cyprus	Cyprus

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have been embedded in the (*a*) Iraqi 10th division, (*b*) Iraqi 14th division and (c) other Iraqi units in each month since January. [209956]

Des Browne: We began our policy of embedding personnel within the Iraqi army and its chain of command at the beginning of April this year. Prior to this, while we were not embedding, we had established a very close and effective training relationship with first 10th Division and then, following its establishment, with 14th Division. A considerable number of UK forces remain focused on this vital work of monitoring, mentoring and training the Iraqi security forces, with many of the balance providing direct support to it.

As of 30 April 2008, 94 UK personnel were embedded with 14th Division and 73 collocated with the Basra Operations Command. In addition to this number, UK forces also provide direct and substantial assistance to the Iraqi army both in the planning and conduct of their operations. We have also established a six-strong liaison team at Basra Palace.

There are currently no British soldiers embedded with the Iraqi army's 10th Division.

We have continued in our efforts to help develop the Iraqi navy and some 116 UK personnel, based at Umm Qasr Port, have been involved in this task.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel have suffered damage to their (*a*) sight and (*b*) hearing as a consequence of service in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [209312]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The following tables show the numbers of UK service personnel who have attended the Role 2 (Enhanced), or Role 3 field hospital facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan with ophthalmic and ear nose and throat (ENT) conditions. Available records of this type do not separately identify those with only hearing problems.

Ophthalmology

	Iraq (March 2003 to December 2007)	*Afghanistan (April 2006 to December 2007)*
Injuries	888	146
Illness	472	34
Total	1,360	180

Ear/nose/throat (ENT)

	Iraq (March 2003 to December 2007)	*Afghanistan (April 2006 to December 2007)*
Injuries	104	23
Illness	500	58
Total	604	81

The tables show initial attendances only. The figures were compiled using the Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR), which records all patients who have attended or been admitted through the A and E department of either a UK Role 2(E) or UK Role 3 operational hospital. OpEDAR is designed to capture diagnosis at the initial assessment, rather than track a patient through their care. It is possible for diagnosis to change over the course of treatment or for a patient to have multiple conditions.

These figures have been centrally compiled and there may, therefore, be a small percentage of cases that have not been entered into the reporting system.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities of service personnel in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been as a result of (i) heatstroke and (ii) other heat-related illness. [209649]

Derek Twigg: Since 2003, coroners' inquests to date have found that two service personnel have died as a result of heat related conditions while serving in Iraq. There have been no heat related fatalities in Afghanistan. Additionally, one heat related fatality was recorded in Oman, in 2003, during Exercise Saif Sarea.

Military Aircraft: Aid

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria determine the use of military aircraft for deploying humanitarian aid. [209651]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) uses military aircraft if they are necessary to deliver humanitarian aid where civil aircraft are not suitable or are insufficient and if military aircraft can be spared from defence purposes. For example, DFID used military aircraft in addition to civil aircraft and other delivery channels in response to the Pakistan earthquake in 2005. DFID and the Ministry of Defence have an agreement for the use of military assets in humanitarian aid, including aircraft, when required and available. Wherever possible DFID will use civil aircraft, to take advantage of their generally greater carrying capacity and availability and in accordance with internationally agreed practice and guidelines (the "Oslo Guidelines") on the use of military assets in disaster relief. All DFID's relief flights into Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis have been civil.

Suez: Navy

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records he holds on the number of navy personnel who *(a)* served in the Suez canal zone between 1951 and 1954 and *(b)* served in the Suez canal zone during the period 1951 to 1954 for a period of 30 or more days continuous service. [210213]

Derek Twigg: Royal Navy personnel records are not organised in such a way as to show the numbers of Royal Navy personnel who served in the Suez canal zone between 1951 and 1954.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

National Income: Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of (a) gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and (b) GDP per capita of the resident population on levels of immigration; and what plans he has to commission further such research. [206609]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The issue of the links between migration and GDP and GDP per head was raised by the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs in its report, "The Economic Impact of Immigration" (Session 2007-08 HL Paper 82). The Government are considering the recommendations made by the Committee and will provide a formal response shortly. I shall arrange for copies of the response to be placed in the Library of both Houses and for a copy to be sent to the hon. Gentleman.

PRIME MINISTER

Higher Civil Servants

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether permanent secretaries of Government departments are responsible for holding information relating to the work of *(a)* existing and *(b)* former special advisers in their departments. [210064]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are employed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Japan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters in respect of bilateral co-operation on energy policy were discussed in his meeting with his Japanese counterpart on 2 June. [209130]

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed whaling with the Japanese Prime Minister during his visit on 2 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [210038]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Fukuda on his recent visit. I refer the hon. Members to the press conference I held with the Prime Minister Fukuda on 2 June 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15726.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowances

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in carer's allowance in each year since its introduction. [208715]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Invalid care allowance-carer's allowance expenditure

£ million, nominal terms

	Outturn
1976-77	2
1977-78	3
1978-79	4
1979-80	4
1980-81	5
1981-82	6
1982-83	8
1983-84	10
1984-85	11
1985-86	13
1986-87	104
1987-88	184
1988-89	173
1989-90	184
1990-91	208
1991-92	285
1992-93	345
1993-94	442
1994-95	526
1995-96	617
1996-97	736
1997-98	746
1998-99	782
1999-2000	835
2000-01	867
2001-02	932
2002-03	993
2003-04	1,054
2004-05	1,096
2005-06	1,149
2006-07	1,181
2007-08 (estimated outturn)	1,262

Notes:

1. Invalid care allowance was introduced in 1976 but only for men and single women caring for a relative.
2. In 1986 invalid care allowance was extended to married women.
3. Name changed from invalid care allowance to carer's allowance in 2003

Carers: Grandparents

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support is available to grandparents who care full time for their grandchildren. [209802]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* Grandparents who are responsible for children are able to claim the same benefits as all other persons responsible for children: the exact amounts that they receive will depend upon the individual circumstances of each case.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is available to staff dealing with benefit claims to help them assist grandparents who care for their grandchildren to access appropriate benefits. [209803]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* There is no specific training for staff when dealing with benefit claims from grandparents who care for grandchildren. In all cases, staff will consider the circumstances of people caring for children and will ensure that they are given the support and guidance required. In many cases this will involve signposting the customer to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs who administer most benefits and allowances for children.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208146]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not record levels of food waste. Food waste generated from the Department's work based catering outlets is generally at a low level due to the strict protocols in place to minimise it.

Housing Benefit

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which local authorities have made discretionary housing payments to tenants who are having difficulties paying their rent; [208123]

(2) how much of the discretionary housing payment allocated to local authorities has been paid to tenants who are having difficulties paying their rent; [208124]

(3) what proportion of the discretionary housing payment allocated to local authorities in the UK has been paid to tenants who are having difficulties paying their rent. [208125]

Mr. Plaskitt: Discretionary housing payments are administered by local authorities and the reasons for payment are not collated centrally.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration was of a finished incapacity benefit claim commenced in each year since 1997. [207726]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 2 June 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

Number of terminated incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claims commencing in each year since 1997 by duration

Year ending August	*Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance commencements*	*Number of the commencements whose claim has now terminated (since 1997)*	*Average (median) duration of the commencements whose claim has now terminated (since 1997) (days)*
1997	997,100	885,000	161
1998	869,100	762,600	153
1999	828,200	716,000	159
2000	798,900	674,200	167
2001	774,300	633,600	174
2002	727,100	586,700	168
2003	714,000	555,100	166
2004	686,900	512,700	165
2005	638,300	444,200	149
2006	599,100	369,500	135
2007	588,400	210,300	88

Notes

1 Numbers of claims are rounded to the nearest 100

2 Both the number of claims terminated and the average length of terminated claims are subject to revision. This is particularly the case for more recent years as claims recorded as terminating subsequently will have the effect of increasing the average length of claim

Source

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. terminations dataset

Incapacity Benefit: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target figure for reducing the number of incapacity benefit claimants by 2010 is for each local authority area in Hampshire. [207853]

Mrs. McGuire: Our aim is to reduce the national incapacity benefits caseload by one million over the decade to 2015. We do not have area specific aims as part of this. We are committed to meeting our stretching long term goal, and believe it will support the delivery of real change over the coming years. Our upcoming Green Paper will consult on how best to build on our progress so far.

Incapacity Benefit: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people receiving incapacity benefit in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. [209219]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Leeds metropolitan district and Leeds, West parliamentary constituency: November 2007

	Number of people
Leeds Metropolitan District	31,560
Leeds, West Parliamentary Constituency	4,590

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures include credits only cases.

Source

Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS data

Income Support

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to spend on each type of income support in each of the next five years. [209320]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: The available information is in the following table.

Income support planned expenditure by type

£ million nominal terms

	Client groups			
	Long-term sick and disabled	*Short-term sick*	*Lone parents*	*Others*
2008-09	4,661	255	2,517	293
2009-10	4,206	36	1,652	279
2010-11	3,658	14	1,454	302

Notes

1 Figures are plans only and are subject to change.

2 Expenditure plans are only produced for the Comprehensive Spending Review period.

Source:

DWP Spring forecasts, as published in DWP expenditure tables

Pensioners: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pensioners in Leeds West constituency. [209220]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The state pension caseload is in the following table.

Gender	*Total*
Male	4,770
Female	8,160

Notes

1. Caseload figures are as at 30 November 2007.

2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

Source

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Post Office Card Account

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the future of the Post Office card account following the expiry of the current contract. [209495]

Mr. Plaskitt: The existing Post Office card account contract ends in March 2010 as always planned. We are currently in the process of procuring a successor to the existing Post Office card account. An announcement will be made later this year in accordance with appropriate procurement rules once a decision has been reached.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to announce the result of the tender for a replacement of the Post Office card account; and if he will make a statement. [209702]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* We are currently in the process of procuring a successor to the existing Post Office card account. An announcement will be made later this year in accordance with appropriate procurement rules once a decision has been reached.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria for rural access are required to be met by those tendering for the replacement of the Post Office card account. [209703]

Mr. Plaskitt: The notice that appeared in the Official Journal of the European Union for the replacement to the Post Office card account specified that customer access to cash is requested at ATMs and personal teller outlets located throughout the UK. The contractors are asked to detail their intended number and the location of outlets, but the size of the network is expected to be in the region of 10,000 outlets.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appointeeships there were *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* in total over the last 10 years. [207765]

Mrs. McGuire: The information for the last 10 years is not available.

As at December 2007, the number of customers in Great Britain whose benefit payments were made to appointees was 526,320.

Notes:

1. Benefit data is included for pension credit, retirement pension, severe disablement allowance, incapacity benefit, income support, jobseekers allowance, widows benefit and bereavement benefit. Appointee information for other benefits is not available.

2. If a person has an appointee registered for more than one benefit then the appointee is only counted once in the above figure.

3. The figure is rounded to the nearest 10.

Source: Information Directorate, 100 per cent sample.

Social Security Benefits: Arrears

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the reduction in backdating periods for pension credit, council tax benefit and housing benefit; and what estimate he has made of the number of claims for backdating for periods of over three months in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [206722]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) is currently consulting on the package of regulations which include the changes to the time allowed for pensioners to claim pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit and reducing the backdating period for housing benefit and council tax benefit customers of working age. Once the consultation period is over the SSAC will produce a report which will include a summary of the representations they have received. The SSAC report and the Secretary of State's response to the consultation will be published. A number of representations have been submitted directly to the Department, which will all receive due consideration.

I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1699W, which provides available data on the number of pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit claims backdated for over three months over the last five years.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pensioners who will be entitled to (i) means-tested benefits and (ii) pension credits in (A) 2010, (B) 2020, (C) 2030, (D) 2040 and (E) 2050; and if he will make a statement. [209394]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The latest projections of the proportion of pensioners entitled to means-tested benefits, including pension credit, are published in table three and table one respectively of the factsheet "Proportions of entitlement to Income Related Benefits to 2050", placed in the Library on 2 June 2008.

The information requested is given in the following table.

Projected number and proportion of pensioner households entitled to income-related benefits in selected years

	Any income related benefit		Pension credit	
	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)
2010	6.0	55	4.5	45
2020	5.5	55	4.0	40
2030	5.5	50	4.0	35
2040	5.5	45	3.5	30
2050	5.0	40	3.5	30

Notes:

1. All estimates are given on a United Kingdom basis, consistent with the Pensions Bill regulatory impact assessment.

2. Estimates are given for financial years. For example, estimates for 2010 relate to the financial year 2010-11.

3. Estimates account for the state pension reforms in the Pensions Act 2007.

4. Estimates do not take account of the effect of the private pension reforms in the current Pensions Bill, such as personal accounts and auto-enrolment.

5. Pensioners are defined as single people or couples containing at least one person of qualifying age for pension credit, including those in residential care.

6. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020. They also account for the increases in state pension age between 2024 and 2046. The estimates assume that the minimum age at which people can claim pension credit rises in line with (women's) state pension age.

7. Entitlement to any income related benefit is defined as entitlement to at least one of pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit.

8. Projections are designed to illustrate the impact of benefit policy under a set of reasonable assumptions. They are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes. Estimated numbers and proportions have been rounded to the nearest 0.5 million and 5 per cent respectively.

9. Projections for proportions entitled to individual benefits have been calibrated to National Statistics estimates for past years, which adjust Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. The National Statistics are published as a range; the projections have been calibrated to the mid-point of that range.

10. There are no corresponding National Statistics estimates to calibrate projected proportions entitled to any income related benefit, so these estimates are subject to greater uncertainty.

Source:

DWP Projections

State Retirement Pensions: Married People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what entitlement a married man has to a state retirement pension on the basis of contributions made by his wife; and if he will make a statement. [209567]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: At present, only a married woman may claim a state pension (of up to £54.35 a week, at current rates) on the basis of contributions made by her husband. This will change after April 2010 when those provisions in the state pension scheme that are still unequal as between men and women begin to be equalised. This will mean that a married man whose wife was born on or after 6 April 1950 (and who will therefore reach pension age herself after April 2010) will be entitled to such a pension on the same terms as a married woman. This change will also apply to people in civil partnerships.

Welfare State: EC Enlargement

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his timetable is for the publication of the findings of the cross-Whitehall unit examining the effects of EEA migration on the welfare state. [208528]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 4 June 2008]*: The review of EEA nationals' access to benefits will report by autumn 2008.

Winter Fuel Payments

John Ba[illegible]o ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensi[illegible]what additional assistance his Department is giving [illegible]elp pensioners pay their fuel bills. [209203]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Alongside the winter fuel payment in winter 2008-09 we will be making an additional payment of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for households with someone aged 80 or over to help with rising fuel bills.

We have secured an agreement with the big six energy companies to provide an extra £225 million in social assistance over the next three years. We are exploring ways to share information with the energy suppliers to help them target this extra money on the poorest pensioners.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with African Union member states on the contribution of military forces to the African Union peacekeeping operations in *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Somalia. [209511]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, and senior officials have recently discussed, with several African countries, their current and potential troop contributions to the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur, including at the AU summit from 31 January-1 February.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has discussed the Ugandan deployment to the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) with President Museveni. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown have raised deployment to AMISOM with Ghana and Nigeria, who have indicated that they were willing to contribute troops.

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* impartiality of the Bangladesh Truth and Accountability Commission. [209510]

Dr. Howells: The caretaker government in Bangladesh is in the early stages of examining proposals for a Truth Commission. Full details of how such a Commission might operate have not yet been published. The UK believes that a Truth Commission must be transparent and serve the interests of justice. We support the fight against corruption and promote the need for transparency as a cornerstone of sustainable democracy across the world.

Bombs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* speeches made by the United Kingdom delegation at and *(b)* documentation submitted to the cluster munitions conference held in Dublin in May; and if he will make a statement on the outcome of the conference. [209149]

Dr. Howells: Copies of the documents requested by the hon. Member will be placed in the Library of the House. They are also available at the website of the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions:

www.clustermunitionsdublin.ie.

As my noble Friend, Lord Malloch-Brown, made clear in another place on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 79-80, we are delighted to have played a leading role in bringing about the new draft convention, which was adopted in Dublin on 30 May. We plan to sign the convention when it opens for signature on 3 December in Oslo. We are studying the text to see if legislation is needed before we can ratify. We have taken a significant step towards implementing its norms by ceasing to use all the UK's cluster munitions with immediate effect and by starting the procedure to withdraw them from service. We believe that the new convention will help to make the world a safer place.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received regarding the assassination of the Karen National Union leader from Burma, Padoh Mahn Sha; and whether he has discussed this matter with his Thai counterpart. [209502]

Meg Munn: To date, we have received no conclusive reports on which person or parties were involved in the assassination of Padoh Mahn Sha on 14 February 2008. The case is still under investigation by the Thai police.

I discussed the murder of Padoh Mahn Sha with Thai Interior Minister Chalerm Ubamrung during my last visit to Thailand in February, who confirmed that investigations continue.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received of the visit to the UK by representatives of the Karen National Union Peace Council; and what discussions he has held on this matter; [209503]

(2) what meetings he has had with representatives of the *(a)* Karen National Union Peace Council and *(b)* Karen National Union in the last 12 months. [209504]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials held a meeting with a visiting delegation from the National Council of the Union of Burma on 23 April 2008 at which the Karen National Union (KNU) was represented. Discussion focused on the role of the exile community in the constitutional referendum in Burma. We have not met representatives of the KNU Peace Council or received any reports of a visit of that organisation to the UK.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he or his officials have held with Pastor Timothy Laklem or other representatives of Asian Tribal Ministries. [209505]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Rangoon, including staff of the Department for International Development, meets representatives from a broad range of Thailand based Burmese organisations, including Asian Tribal Ministries. Officials have not had recent meetings with Pastor Timothy Laklem.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Burmese authorities to encourage them to permit the Red Cross into areas of conflict in eastern Burma; and if he will make a statement. [209742]

Meg Munn: In November 2006 the Government made two ministerial statements strongly condemning the Burmese government's decision to order the closure of the field offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These statements were transmitted to the Burmese Ministers of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Health, Labour, and National Economic Planning and Development.

On the 29 June 2007, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development (DFID) statement was issued condemning the Burmese regime's chronic failure to co-operate with the ICRC, which had led the organisation to suspend its operations inside the country. This development was a serious setback to the efforts of the international community to alleviate the suffering of the ordinary people of Burma.

Subsequently the DFID Office and our embassy in Rangoon have continued to press the Burmese authorities to reverse their decision.

Cuba: Human Rights

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the Cuba government's decision to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [209854]

Meg Munn: Cuba's signature of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a welcome signal. Our assessment is that Cuba is not currently in a position to comply with all the terms of the covenant and there are notable shortcomings which Cuba will have to address. We look forward to implementation of the terms of the covenant by Cuba and ratification by the People's Assembly, when the covenant will become binding under international law.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208392]

Meg Munn: The latest available data on the disability status and ethnic background of civil servants in Departments and Agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as Civil Service Statistics 2006. Information can be accessed from the following websites:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

and

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

The data for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), its agency Wilton Park, and FCO Services—its Trading Fund—are as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
Declared disabled	250	4
Ethnic Minority	480	7.8

The latest available data on the gender of civil servants are as at 31 December 2007 and are published by the ONS, as part of their wider Quarterly Public Sector Employment Statistics. Information can be accessed from the following website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

The data for the FCO are as follows:

	Number	Percentage
Female	2,520	41.3
Male	3,580	58.7

We do not collect or publish information on civil servants' sexual orientation. Declaration of ethnicity and disability status is voluntary. The FCO encourages all staff to declare their ethnicity and any disability. The FCO is committed to embracing and harnessing difference, creating equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination. We aim to achieve this as an employer, a service provider and a policy developer.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208515]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office sends mail overseas through contracted delivery companies. The annual costs each year are shown in the following table:

	Company	Cost (£)
April 2001 to March 2002	Excel Logistics	1,582,877
April 2002 to March 2003	Excel Logistics	1,532,486
April 2003 to March 2004	Excel Logistics	1,444,644
April 2004 to March 2005	Excel Logistics	1,361,530
April 2005 to March 2006	Excel Logistics/DHL Global Forwarding[1]	1,298,179
April 2006 to March 2007	DHL Global Forwarding	1,284,271
April 2007 to March 2008	DHL Global Forwarding	1,250,638

[1] From October 2005

The FCO delegates budgets to posts overseas for postal services to the UK and to other countries. No central record is kept, and to obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 708W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209007]

Meg Munn: The Fairtrade products, available for purchase at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) catering facilities are as follows:

tea, coffee, biscuits, flapjacks, chocolate, juices and cake.

All of the above are available on request for official departmental meetings and engagements via the FCO Hospitality Booking website.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 708W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [209008]

Meg Munn: The total value of Fairtrade purchases made by the catering facilities within the Foreign Commonwealth Office over the last three years was:

King Charles Street (London) £172,800, which equates to 18 per cent. of the total revenue;

Old Admiralty Buildings (London) £64,800, which equates to 25 per cent. of the total revenue; and

Hanslope Park (Milton Keynes) £90,000, which equates to 13 per cent. of the total revenue.

International Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed in the meetings of 11 to 12 May 2008 between the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of State with responsibility for Europe and the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the United Nations; and if he will make a statement. [208784]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, and I met separately with the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Gisladottir, on 12 May 2008.

My discussions with Mrs. Gisladottir covered both bilateral and multilateral issues including Iceland's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council, the current situation in Afghanistan, the European economic area financial mechanism and the discussions between the UK, Iceland, Ireland and Denmark on the subject of the continental shelf in the Hatton Rockall area of the north-east Atlantic. I also raised whaling with Mrs. Gisladottir.

My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, and Mrs. Gisladottir discussed political developments in Africa, the current situation in Somalia, and an Icelandic initiative to promote sustainable fisheries in southern Africa.

Japan: Offences Against Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the governments of *(a)* Japan, *(b)* Thailand, *(c)* Cambodia and *(d)* Vietnam on the prevention of child sexual abuse and paedophilia in those countries. [208568]

Meg Munn: The UK has made no direct representations to Japan. Home Office Minister, the noble Lord West of Spithead, will raise sexual exploitation of children during the Group of Eight leading industrialised nations (G8) Justice and Home Affairs ministerial meeting from 11 to 13 June.

Our embassy in Bangkok organised and funded a training course earlier this year on requirements and best practice used in covert internet investigations into sexual exploitation of children online. Twelve police officers from Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore took part. The training was conducted by two British police officers from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). This training enhanced the trainees' ability to interact covertly online and conduct investigations for the purpose of gathering evidence admissible in a court of law. It also encouraged the building of informal and working contacts among police officers from the region.

Our embassy in Bangkok has also recently concluded a three-year project working with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Thai Government to improve access to birth registration and citizenship among ethnic minority "hill tribes" in remote areas of Thailand. Lack of birth registration and citizenship has been identified by UNESCO as the primary causal factor behind the trafficking of "hill tribe" girls.

We have raised the issue of child sex abuse and paedophilia at the highest level in government with the Government of Cambodia, who have introduced new legislation on trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. I discussed these issues in detail with non-governmental organisations in Phnom Penh on 7 June.

Our embassy in Phnom Penh has worked over a number of years in close collaboration with the Government of Cambodia and the UK's CEOP. This has included organising cooperation and officers from the Cambodian National Police to build capacity and raise awareness of this global problem.

We are working in partnership with international organisations, such as the UN Children's Fund and the World Health Organisation, to tackle the causes of child sex exploitation. Our work in Cambodia has been recognised as a model of excellence for the region with some of the mechanisms for tackling child sex abuse established in Cambodia being mirrored elsewhere, including in Vietnam and Thailand.

Our embassy in Hanoi works closely with the Vietnamese Government to tackle child sexual exploitation in Vietnam. In February 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded a delegation led by the Vietnamese Police Commissioner to visit child protection organisations in the UK. As a direct result of that visit, Vietnam established a specialised unit for child sex offences in their General Department of Police. In March 2007, the FCO organised a roundtable between Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security and the UK's CEOP to develop a joint action plan for capacity building measures in Vietnam. Under that plan, the FCO funded a training seminar run by CEOP in Hanoi in December 2007, an attachment by two Vietnamese offic [illegible] CEOP offices in London in February 2008 and [illegible] a training in Lao Cai and Ba Ria Vung Tau provinces in February and March 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to respond to the letter of 26 March 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on meeting the Dalai Lama. [209981]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* My noble Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, replied to the hon. Member on 1 May.

Papua: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Indonesian military operations in the Highlands of West Papua, Jayawijaya Regency, with particular regard to the effect of these operations on the civilian population of the region; and what representations he has made to the government of Indonesia on this matter. [208732]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W.

Saudi Arabia: Embassies

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters the British consulate in Riyadh received in *(a)* the last month and *(b)* the last 12 months. [208289]

Meg Munn: During April 2008 the consular section of our embassy in Riyadh received a total of 793 letters, faxes and e-mails from members of the general public.

An exact figure for the last 12 months is not available, but it is estimated that during the period 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008 the consular section received a total of approximately 7,700 letters, faxes and e-mails from members of the general public.

Sudan: Armed conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to *(a)* the government of Sudan and *(b)* the government of South Sudan on the situation in Abyei. [209509]

Meg Munn: The Permanent Secretaries of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office pressed senior representatives of both the government of National Unity and the government of Southern Sudan to resolve the Abyei dispute, with the mediation of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, during their visit to Sudan from 18-21 May.

Our Permanent Representative to the UN co-led a UN Security Council visit to Sudan from 3-5 June and repeated the call for both sides to seek a swift resolution.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the establishment of a UNMIS-monitored demilitarised zone for the Abyei region of Sudan. [209746]

Meg Munn: We support the efforts of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, to help the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan agree security arrangements to stabilise Abyei. We understand that negotiations have focussed on replacing units of the

Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army with a Joint Integrated Unit. We would want UNMIS to monitor the area as agreed in UN Security Council Resolution 1812, which updated their mandate.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the situation in northern Uganda; whether he met the Paramount Chief of the Acholi, His Highness Rwot Onen Acana II, on his recent visit to London; what involvement he has had in the ongoing talks in Juba; and if he will make a statement. [210145]

Meg Munn: Despite the stalled talks in the Juba peace process the situation in northern Uganda remains stable. Our officials have closely monitored the peace process and have maintained regular contact with the Ugandan government, leaders in northern Uganda and former President Chissano's team. The Government have provided financial and political support to the peace process and are considering what further support to provide to continue to promote sustainable peace and development in the region.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials were unable to meet with His Highness Rwot Onen Acana II on his recent visit to London, but hope to do so in the future.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the whereabouts of General Otti, a former leader of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [210146]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no recent reports on the whereabouts of Vincent Otti. The last reports received indicate that Otti was killed by Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony in October 2007.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to extend economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. [208454]

Meg Munn: We have no economic sanctions against Zimbabwe nor are any planned at this stage. The EU targeted measures impose a visa ban and asset freeze on President Mugabe and 130 other named Zimbabweans. There is also an EU embargo on selling arms to Zimbabwe. These measures do not hurt ordinary Zimbabweans. The county's economic meltdown is entirely the result of President Mugabe's misguided policies.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase levels of support given to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium following rice price increases. [209501]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W.

China: Earthquakes

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to provide aid to people affected by the recent earthquake in China. [210033]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, DFID provided £1 million in cash to the China Association for NGO Co-operation, which was the designated recipient by the Chinese government, for receiving cash donations. This money was used to buy food, water, blankets and 2,400 tents. A few days later, and in recognition of the huge numbers of people made homeless, we provided a further 4,755 tents, the total value of which is estimated at £4.15 million, including air freight costs. In addition, we provided specialist communication equipment, the value of which was estimated at £31,500.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Forests

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of industrial logging on poverty alleviation measures in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [210094]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made a formal assessment of the contribution that industrial logging makes to poverty alleviation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). However, experience from other countries tells us that, while logging activities can contribute significant revenue, their contribution to poverty reduction tend to be marginal unless local communities are closely involved in decision making about the use of forests and the distribution of benefits from forest exploitation. This is why the UK Government have been sponsoring the Roundtable process to develop alternative models for forest management and financing in the DRC. These will be presented to Congolese and international partners during a conference in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 June. One of the proposals to be presented is the introduction of community-based forestry management in the DRC which puts local communities at the centre of the decision making process for forest use.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on extension of the moratorium on issuing new logging titles in the Democratic Republic of Congo until proper land-use planning is in place. [210095]

Gillian Merron: In 2007 the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government, donor partners and a large part of DRC and international civil society adopted the Priority Agenda for the DRC's forests. The UK Government agree with all the parties to the Priority Agenda that forest land-use planning involving local people is essential for avoiding future conflicts in forest areas. We also agree that the moratorium should not be lifted until a national plan for granting new concessions has been developed involving the DRC government, NGOs, private companies and local people. The recent establishment of a national committee to agree a standard methodology for forest land-use zoning is an encouraging sign that the rights of forest-dependent people are being taken seriously. This methodology should be agreed by all relevant parties and applied successfully before new logging titles can be issued.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on a moratorium on all logging in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [210096]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government do not believe that a moratorium on all logging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is either desirable or enforceable. The DRC is a desperately poor country emerging from civil war and it needs to be able to exploit its natural resources in a sustainable way to drive reconstruction and the provision of basic services. Sustainable logging practices from countries like Mexico and Guatemala show that governments and communities can derive substantial benefits from logging activities. A blanket moratorium would also prevent the emergence of small-scale logging businesses which are an essential element of community-based forest management.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Oral Answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 286, what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of market speculation to the effects on developing countries of the increase in world food prices. [209766]

Gillian Merron: The Government have been examining the contribution of market speculation to recent rises in commodity prices, including food. The available evidence suggests that speculation in financial markets is not driving prices. The Chancellor will place further details before the House today.

Egypt: Food

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian implications of the food price rise in Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [209735]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Egypt. However, the British embassy in Cairo is monitoring the economic situation in the country. Recent assessment shows that escalating inflation and food price rises have raised tensions and increased the threat of social instability. However, in response the Egyptian Government has been implementing policies aimed at reducing the impact of food price rises on the poor, for example by committing to extend the number of people eligible for subsidised bread ration cards by 17 million. DFID is also in regular contact with the World Food Programme (WFP) who launched a global appeal earlier in 2008 for countries most at risk from rising food prices. There was no specific appeal for Egypt, where the WFP operates capacity building programmes and school feeding programmes but has not initiated any emergency operations.

Egypt: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department has made to increasing food aid to Egypt since March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [209732]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Egypt. DFID, however, continues to support poverty reduction efforts in Egypt through contributions to international institutions such as the European Commission (EC). The UK is contributing about €95 million towards the EC's €558 million 2007 to 2010 programme of assistance to Egypt. DFID has also been in regular contact with the World Food Programme (WFP) and has responded to their recent global appeal for countries most at risk from rising food prices with a £3[illegible] million contribution. There was no specific appeal for Egypt, where the WFP operates capacity building programmes and school feeding programmes but has no emergency operations.

Human Rights: Females

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of international progress towards the UN commitment to eliminating violence against women as adopted in 1995; and what contribution the UK has made to that work. [209748]

Gillian Merron: Reports from the UN—in particular the Secretary-General's In-Depth Study on Violence against Women (2006) and subsequent reports to the General Assembly—as well as our own work in developing countries, show that more progress needs to be made internationally towards the commitments on violence against women agreed at the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995.

The UK has supported a number of initiatives in the UN that seek to address violence against women (and girls), including resolutions and the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. We also welcomed the launch in February by the UN Secretary-General of a new campaign to intensify action to end violence against women and girls.

The Department for International Development also tackles violence against women and girls through our development assistance programmes as part of our wider work to promote gender equality and women's rights, as set out in the Gender Equality Action Plan launched last year. We support work on this issue in over 20 developing countries, including in the areas of legislative reform, improved provision of services for victims, work with media on awareness raising and changing attitudes, and training of police and military. This includes initiatives in conflict and post-conflict situations implemented by civil society and UN partners. For example, we are currently supporting a programme implemented by the UN Development Fund for Women

(UNIFEM) aimed at promoting women's engagement in peace-building and preventing sexual violence in conflict which is working in Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor Leste and Uganda.

The Gender Equality Action Plan can be found at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/gender-equality-plan-2007.pdf, and

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/gender-equality.pdf

Indonesia: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the terms of reference are of the programme established in Indonesia by his Department under the fund to be managed by the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation; when the fund will begin operating; for how long the programme will run; whether the fund will sponsor Government and private sector projects; and what projects he expects to be funded. [210098]

Mr. Malik: The Terms of Reference for the Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme are to reduce and eliminate illegal logging, to achieve poverty reduction through community-based forest management and to support reforms for reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation. The agreement was signed in February this year and runs until October 2010.

The Fund will finance government and civil society. Projects include implementing a European Union—Indonesia voluntary partnership agreement on forest law enforcement, governance and trade, legal reforms to reduce corruption, community-based forest management and strengthening local community foundations in six regions.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made with the programme for funding displaced Iraqis within that country and in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [209907]

Mr. Malik: Since 2003, DFID has committed over £149 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq, £17 million of which has been allocated for this year. We have channelled our assistance to a variety of international organisations working to provide assistance to the most vulnerable people displaced inside Iraq and in the region. Support provided through these organisations includes food, water, shelter and medicine.

We are also working to promote a coordinated international effort in response to humanitarian situation, with the Government of Iraq (GoI) in the lead. The GoI has recognised it holds primary responsibility for the welfare of its people and is working to address the humanitarian situation inside the country. To that end, the GoI last week allocated $40 million to the World Food Programme, to assist in the provision of food for internally displaced people. The UK is also encouraging the GoI to take a lead in providing financial support to Iraqi refugees in the wider region, and we are seeing some progress being made. The GoI has allocated $25 million to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan to support Iraqis who are currently living there, and very recently announced $195 million to support voluntary returnees from the region back to Iraq.

However, while international aid is vital in supporting the most vulnerable Iraqis—both within Iraq and in the wider region—the longer term solution to the humanitarian problem hinges on sustainable improvements in the security situation. Currently refugees who have been interviewed in the region have said they do not wish to return to Iraq because they believe it is unsafe to do so. The UNHCR, who lead on refugee issues, has also made it clear that the situation in Iraq does not currently warrant mass refugee return. Therefore, security must be the Iraqi Government's top priority, to allow displaced people to feel safe enough to return home.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which 10 recipients received the greatest amount of UK aid for Palestinian refugees in 2007-08; how much each received; and if he will make a statement. [209734]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £63.6 million in financial assistance to the Palestinian people. £35.45 million of that amount supported services such as health, education and power generation provided by the Palestinian Authority in the west bank and Gaza, and also benefited refugees. The only part of that assistance dedicated specifically to Palestinian refugees was £15.6 million through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This helped UNRWA provide health, education and other services to 4.5 million Palestinian refugees in the region, including over a million refugees in Gaza and over 700,000 in the west bank.

Somalia: Food

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid is being provided to Somalia to develop efficient and up-to-date methods of food production; and if he will make a statement. [209743]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government provide central funding to the EC in Somalia who are the lead donor in the field of rural development and food security with €30.9 million currently invested in programmes. The aim is to:

- increase crop production, income and assets (particularly livestock) for communities in rural areas;
- improve market access and marketing; and
- improve access to appropriate information for emergency response and development planning.

DFID also provides core funding to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and United Nations organisations some of which contributes to food production activities. For example, DFID has provided over £90 million in support to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation and International Fund for Agricultural Development over the period 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to stipulate that future pledges of aid to Sudan are contingent on *(a)* the removal of Ahmad Harun from his position as Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs and *(b)* the surrender of Ahmad Harun to the International Criminal Court. [209474]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK does not channel any of its humanitarian or development assistance through the Government of Sudan. To make our aid conditional on the conduct of the regime would be to punish the people in Darfur and Southern Sudan who rely on international support for basic humanitarian assistance.

West Bank: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid he estimates reached internally displaced people in the West Bank in each year since 1997; and what factors have slowed the distribution of aid. [209737]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There is no internationally agreed upon definition of what constitutes internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). United Nations agencies do not systematically collect data on the multiple triggers of internal displacement (e.g. house demolition) in the OPTs nor on the size of the various IDP-populations therein.

UK support to the OPTs benefits Palestinians, including IDPs, in both the West Bank, Gaza and, for refugees, also the wider region. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Palestinian Authority (PA) to provide services such as health and education and for on-going technical assistance to the PA in taking forward reforms. DFID also provides assistance dedicated specifically to Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This helps UNRWA provide health, education and other services to 4.5 million Palestinian refugees in the region, including over a million refugees in Gaza and over 700,000 in the West Bank. Since 1996-97, the UK has provided nearly £295 million in assistance to the Palestinian people.

£000

	Financial aid	*Technical cooperation*	*Humanitarian assistance*	*Grants and other aid in kind*	*Total*	*[1]Total UNRWA*
1996-97	1,181	2,236	50	2,681	6,148	8,140
1997-98	963	2,741	59	2,329	6,091	10,042
1998-99	5	2,914	94	2,167	5,180	3,336
1999-2000	628	3,903	0	3,459	7,990	12,737
2000-01	791	4,065	569	3,570	8,996	17,768
2001-02	218	4,186	4,567	5,557	14,528	24,209
2002-03	0	4,650	4,534	5,982	15,165	18,708
2003-04	0	5,380	0	11,461	16,841	23,646
2004-05	7,575	5,293	1,800	2,897	17,565	17,229
2005-06	10,335	3,689	0	1,034	15,058	14,985
2006-07	11,914	2,895	223	163	15,196	15,015
2007-08[2]					48,000	15,600
Total	33,610	41,950	11,897	41,300	128,757	165,816

[1] Covers support to Palestinian refugees in the OPTs, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
[2] Provisional figures.

The UK aligns its support to the PA to the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan and does not subdivide its support between Gaza and the West Bank. UNRWA generally allocates around 30 per cent. of its budget to Gaza, 16 per cent. to the West Bank and the remaining to help other Palestinian refugees in the region.

Movement and access restrictions undermine the effectiveness of humanitarian operations and impose additional costs on humanitarian agencies. The UK continues to call on Israel to ease those restrictions in order to alleviate the humanitarian situation and allow the Palestinian economy to grow. Despite the obstacles, assistance is reaching those who need it. Our funding to UNRWA supports the delivery of medical and social services, education and some food aid to social hardship cases.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the effect of economic sanctions on food and medicine distribution in Zimbabwe in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [209744]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There were no UK or EU economic sanctions targeting Zimbabwe in 2007-08, nor are there any at present. There are EU targeted measures that impose a visa ban and asset freeze on President Mugabe and 130 named individuals. There is an EU embargo on selling arms to Zimbabwe. There are no other UK or EU sanctions on Zimbabwe. The UK Government do not wish to punish the people of Zimbabwe for the wrongdoings of the regime. In 2007-08, we provided £45 million of humanitarian assistance, including for essential medicines and food.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Delivery Authority: Procurement

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons the Olympic Delivery Authority did not use the constructionline procurement system for letting its contracts; and if she will make a statement. [209707]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: Constructionline is an accreditation system that requires a supplier to pay a subscription. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) cannot under EU public procurement directives force contractors to sign up to a paid service to compete for public works. The ODA also felt that this would be a potential barrier to small and medium sized businesses wishing to bid for 2012 contracts.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has received representations from contractors about the Olympic Delivery Authority's accreditation system; and if she will make a statement. [209708]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: I have received no direct representation from contractors on the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) accreditation system. However, there has been much ODA engagement with the business community, both large and small, on the free to use CompeteFor system. 18,000 suppliers are registered currently giving eligibility to apply for any opportunity on the system and ODA estimate approximately 10,000 opportunities from the ODA supply chain alone being advertised on CompeteFor.

Olympic Games 2012: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Bexley-based businesses have *(a)* tendered for and *(b)* obtained contracts for the London 2012 Olympic Games. [208637]

Tessa Jowell: To date, four businesses or organisations registered in Bexley have supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority. No businesses registered in Bexley have tendered for contracts above the Official Journal of the European Union threshold (according to EU legislation, all contracts from the public sector which are valued above a certain threshold must be published in the Official Journal of the European Union).

To date 44 businesses registered in Bexley signed-up to the CompeteFor electronic brokerage system for opportunities in the London 2012 supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that the London 2012 Olympics has the improvement of skills levels in sports facilities maintenance as part of its legacy; and if she will make a statement. [209487]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

To help meet the challenge of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, Asset Skills (the Sector Skills Council for Facilities Management) has recently produced occupational and function maps for the job role of facilities management. These maps are the blueprints for the development of new occupational standards and qualifications. In addition to this Asset Skills has also recently developed a suite of national occupational standards and qualifications that will help ensure that employers have access to the facilities management skills that they need to do the job both for the Games themselves and beyond into the legacy phase.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During the last three years 46 DCMS members of staff have taken part in vocational training defined as training directly accredited or recognised equivalency to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) levels 2-4. As a proportion this represents 10.4 per cent. of staff working in DCMS.

English Sports Council: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant-in-aid funding Sport England received in each year since 1997-98; and how much Sport England awarded in grants in each year since 1997-98. [208197]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures provided by Sport England, for grant in aid funding received and grants awarded in each year since 1997-98, are as follows.

£000

	Grant in aid (GIA) received	*Total grants awarded*	*Amount of grants awarded from GIA*
1997-98	32,925	208,322	19,085
1998-99	31,551	337,743	17,005
1999-00	66,400	166,560	20,952
2000-01	37,442	350,711	24,190
2001-02	43,162	500,632	30,019
2002-03	45,354	302,021	62,393
2003-04	63,775	180,548	20,132
2004-05	66,275	237,487	49,124
2005-06	78,963	215,141	57,676
2006-07	102,500	216,910	90,710
2007-08	113,296	198,488	88,481

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208137]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold the management information on how much food waste is generated.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has received from the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1994. [210412]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department recovers a share of the net costs of running the National Lottery Commission (NLC) from the national lottery distribution fund (NLDF). Details of these amounts can be found in note 5 of the NLDF accounts, which can be found at the following website addresses or in the House Libraries.

NLDF Annual Accounts 2005-06:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/HC266 NationalLotteryDistributionFundAccount_200506.pdf

NLDF Annual Accounts 2006-07:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/386557_HC158_withwording.pdf

My Department also recovers from the NLDF the operational costs incurred by it in carrying out NLDF matters. Details of these amounts can be found in note 4 of the NLDF accounts. Accounts for 2007-08 are expected to be laid before the House in October 2008.

National Lottery: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were engaged on National Lottery Distribution Fund matters in each of the last five years; and what proportion of their working time was spent on such matters in each of those years. [210243]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 June 2008]*: The number of staff engaged on national lottery distribution fund matters and the proportion of time spent in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

In addition, other staff are engaged on lottery policy matters and on the sponsorship of lottery distributing bodies. This activity is not related to the management of the national lottery distribution fund.

Financial year	*Number of staff*	*Percentage of time on NLDF*
2003-04	9	42
2004-05	8	46
2005-06	8	47
2006-07	8	45
2007-08	8	38

Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments were made to the National Lottery Commission from the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1994. [210234]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of the payments made to the National Lottery Commission (NLC) from the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) can be found in Note 5 of the OLDF annual accounts for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, which can be found at the following website addresses or in the House libraries.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/HC267 OlympicLotteryDistributionFundAccount_200506.pdf

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/OF DistribtionAccounts20067.pdf

A similar note will appear in the 2007-08 accounts, which are expected to be laid before Parliament in October.

Redstone

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department holds with Redstone; what services are supplied; and what the total value is of these contracts. [210238]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not currently hold any contracts with Redstone.

Sport England: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* his Department on advertising for the position of Chairman of Sport England. [210237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The position of Chairman of Sport England was advertised in *The Sunday Times* on 16 and 23 December 2007. Following an organisational review of the body, the position was re-advertised in *The Sunday Times* on 8 June 2008 and in *The Times* online on 9 June 2008. The total net advertising cost is £17,148.25 which will be met in full by the Department.

Sports: Further Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many co-ordinators of sport in further education were appointed in each of the last three years; and how many are planned to be appointed in the next three years. [208223]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

As part of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, 20 pilot FE sport co-ordinators have been in post since April 2008. Appointment of co-ordinators for all of the 377 FE colleges will begin in September 2008. We aim to have them all in place by January 2009. No sport co-ordinators in further education existed before 2008.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of increasing the free entitlement for childcare from 12.5 hours per week to 15 hours per week by 2010. [210026]

Beverley Hughes: The extension to the free entitlement from 12½ hours per week to 15 hours per week, delivered more flexibly than at present, is being funded through a new investment of £590 million over 2008 to 2011 (£80 million in 2008/09, £170 million in 2009/10 and £340 million in 2010/11. Funding beyond 2011 will, of course, be a matter for future spending reviews.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with how many partners, on average, children's centres work in order to deliver the range of services outlined in Every Child Matters. [210606]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Children's Centres work with a range of local partners including health, Job Centre Plus, schools and private, voluntary and independent organisations. Information on how many partners on average children's centres work with is not collected centrally.

Community Relations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what his Department will spend its share of the pledged £12.5 million to help prevent extremism in communities; over what period of time his Department's share will be spent; which stakeholders will be consulted when deciding which community projects will be given funding from the budget; what the process will be to decide which organisations and projects will be given funding; how the effects of the funding will be assessed; and who will monitor those effects. [210288]

Kevin Brennan: The £12.5 million announced on 3 June will be divided between the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, to be spent on funding projects specifically to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation. My Department will be working closely with Home Office and Ministry of Justice on work to support young individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system and to feed into cross-Government work on identifying and supporting vulnerable individuals at risk of being targeted by violent extremists.

Further Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage 16 to 19 year-olds to stay on in education. [209944]

Jim Knight: 77.3 per cent. of young people were in education and training at the end of 2006, equating to 1,547,000 16 to 18-year-olds—the highest number ever. The Government have taken a number of steps to increase this still further and put us on the pathway to raising the participation age in 2013:

the September Guarantee, an offer of a suitable place in learning for every year 11 school leaver, was delivered nationally for the first time last year—and this year we will be extending that offer to 17-year-olds;

a range of financial support is available to young people to help them continue in education or training, this includes Education Maintenance Allowance, Learner Support Funds, Residential bursaries, Care to Learn and Dance and Drama Awards;

Activity Agreement Pilots in eight areas are testing different packages of financial support for young people completing agreed activities to help identify the most effective model for engaging 16 to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) and Learning Agreement Pilots in eight areas are testing how young people in jobs without training can be motivated to participate in learning;

the NEET strategy (November 2007) introduced a number of measures to increase participation including a duty on providers to notify Connexions when a young person drops out of learning, and encouraging providers to offer more flexible and responsive provision throughout the academic year; and

the post-16 progression measure will help all schools focus on ensuring their pupils make a good transition to post 16 learning—the data will be published in the School Profile in summer 2009.

The 14-19 reforms will go still further. We are introducing a new more engaging curriculum through Diplomas from this September and, in 2013, all young people will have an entitlement to study one of the 14 Diplomas that will be available. For young people who want a more work based route, we are expanding the apprenticeship programme so that every young person who wants one can have one, and the foundation learning tier will give young people not yet ready for level 2 and level 3 qualifications the essential building blocks for future learning.

Grandparents

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has undertaken or evaluated on the number of grandparents who were denied access to their grandchildren by the children's parents during the last 12 months. [210212]

Kevin Brennan: We have not undertaken or evaluated any research on this subject in the last 12 months.

Holiday Play Schemes

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of hours children spent attending a holiday play scheme per day in each year for which records are available; [210029]

(2) how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* Basingstoke, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England had access to holiday play schemes in each year for which records are available. [210031]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collected information on child care provision in England. The estimated number of children attending holiday clubs in England was 352,500 in 2006 compared to 233,800 in 2003. Data are not available at local authority level.

An accurate estimate of the proportion of children attending holiday play schemes cannot be provided as children may access holiday provision in other types of child care settings. Data are not available on the number of children attending other child care providers in school holidays.

Data on the average number of hours per day that children attend holiday play schemes are not collected centrally.

Kids Company: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the purposes are of the £12.7 million grant made by the Government to Kids Company in March; what conditions apply with regard to replicating the work of Kids Company; how much of the grant was intended for such replications; and if he will make a statement. [209712]

Kevin Brennan: Kids Co. has received funding and support from the Youth Sector Development Fund to expand their services to support more of South London's most vulnerable young people.

The funding will also enable them to develop a Centre of Excellence, to offer training in the successful methods and techniques used at Kids Co. to the wider children and young people's work force.

As for all organisations in receipt of the YSDF funding, Kids Co.'s use of the funding will be bound by the terms and conditions set out in their grant agreement. Each month, Kids Co. will be monitored against key performance indicators demonstrating progress toward the objectives of the YSDF.

National Academy of Parenting Practitioners

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of the National Academy of Parenting Practitioners; what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of implementing such plans; and if he will make a statement. [210532]

Beverley Hughes: The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners is in the process of finalising a strategic plan for 2008 onwards to be agreed with my Department—which sets out its work plan and deliverables until 2010; to deliver a combination of research and training to support and develop the parenting workforce. We expect the academy to bring about a step change in the supply and quality of parenting support delivered to parents across England.

The Department has set aside up to £30 million for the academy covering the three-year period, 2007-2010.

Playing Fields: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school playing fields were sold in Hampshire in each of the last 15 years, broken down by school. [209155]

Kevin Brennan: We only have records on the number of school playing fields sold since 1998. Since then we have approved three applications from Hampshire local authority to sell school playing fields, as set out in the following list. Each approval was supported by advice from our independent School Playing Fields Advisory Panel.

Crestwood Community School, Eastleigh in September 2002—surplus land was sold to fund the school's new sports hall and all-weather sports pitch;

the former Beech Down Primary School, Basingstoke in July 2005—the school had closed and the proceeds were used to provide new educational facilities at six local schools;

and Warblington School, Havant in November 2007—surplus land was sold to fund the school's new sports hall and all-weather sports pitch.

Playing Fields: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school playing fields at each school in Southampton were sold in each of the last 15 years. [209194]

Kevin Brennan: We only have records on the number of school playing fields sold since 1998. Since then we have approved one application from Southampton local authority to sell a school playing field. This was in respect of Harefield Primary School, Southampton in December 2007—the school had closed and the proceeds were used to provide a new sports hall at the adjacent junior school site. The approval was supported by advice from our independent School Playing Fields Advisory Panel.

Pre-School Education: Expenditure

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department spent on the production and distribution of its revised early years foundation stage guidance; [210533]

(2) for what reason his Department has revised its guidance on the early years foundation stage. [210619]

Beverley Hughes: It was necessary to do another print-run of the Early Years Foundation Stage because stocks were running low and demand for copies remained high. We took the opportunity to provide clarification of areas where feedback from local authorities, schools and early years providers indicated this would be helpful. None of the legal requirements have changed. The total cost for the reprint was £556,401 for 300,000 copies.

Pre-School Education: Per Capita Costs

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per pupil his Department provided to each local authority in London for the early years entitlement in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [210620]

Beverley Hughes: Payment for the free early education entitlement is made as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant which provides funding for pupils between the ages of 3 and 16. We do not separately identify the amount of funding made available for early years. Local authorities are best placed to determine the most effective use of resources at local level and have discretion over the rate at which they fund settings for delivery of early years provision.

Schools: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new schools applied for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each year since 2006; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that schools are aware of the programme. [206189]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The number of schools that have applied for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme are detailed as follows:

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase 1

Applications received	*New*	*Existing under refurbishment*	*Existing no refurbishment*	*Total*
2006-07				
Number	20	2	35	57
Percentage	36	4	61	—
2007-08				
Number	12	2	15	29
Percentage	41	7	5	—
Total				
Number	32	4	50	86
Percentage	37	5	58	—

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase 2

	2007	*2008*	*Total*
New build	9	6	15
Existing building	105	67	172
Mixed	21	3	24
Total	135	76	211

We are promoting the Low Carbon Buildings Programme through the Sustainable Schools website and have made local authorities aware of the programme through our regular communications channels, and promoted the scheme at major conferences and events. Further details can be obtained from:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/search/search_results.cfm

The Government require all new school buildings to reduce carbon emissions from new school buildings by 60 per cent. through a combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems, and provides additional funding to all new secondary schools within BSF (Building Schools for the Future), academies and One School Pathfinder programmes for this purpose. There are also requirements within building regulations and local planning requirements that encourage microgeneration for new buildings.

Schools: Sports

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each London borough took part in after-school sports in each year since 1997. [210279]

Kevin Brennan: Data are not collected centrally in the format requested.

The annual School Sport Survey has been running for the past four years, but the survey has only collected data by local authority since 2004/05. The following table sets out the percentage of pupils in each local authority taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week for the last three years. Direct comparisons between local authorities are not appropriate as the number of schools in school sport partnerships, and the length of time they have been within partnerships, differs. Since September 2006, all maintained schools in England have been within a school sport partnership.

Percentage of pupils taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport a week by London borough

London borough	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Barking and Dagenham	55	58	80
Bagnet	80	84	82
Bexley	70	75	86
Brent	64	81	83
Bromley	76	82	88
Camden	69	72	82
Croydon	61	70	82
Ealing	66	88	89
Enfield	72	77	87
Greenwich	71	73	78
Hackney	49	67	84

Percentage of pupils taking part in at least two hours high quality PE and sport a week by London borough

London borough	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Hammersmith and Fulham	51	62	88
Haringey	54	80	89
Harrow	72	72	84
Havering	71	74	81
Hillingdon	61	75	82
Hounslow	76	78	82
Islington	58	75	88
Kensington and Chelsea	50	74	88
Kingston upon Thames	76	69	82
Lambeth	83	89	82
Lewisham	66	71	89
Merton	60	84	87
Newham	79	86	91
Redbridge	76	76	80
Richmond upon Thames	80	86	91
Southwark	67	72	87
Sutton	59	75	88
Tower Hamlets	60	62	81
Waltham Forest	69	63	87
Wandsworth	72	88	89
Westminster	55	72	87

Schools: Transport

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils below the age of eight years use school-provided transport, broken down by county. [210201]

Jim Knight: The available information held centrally relates to mode of travel to school, and does not separately identify school-provided transport.

The Department does not hold complete data relating to mode of travel to school. Provision of this information is only compulsory for those schools with an approved travel plan. The scope of collection includes: maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies and special schools.

In the spring 2007 School Census, mode of travel data were supplied for almost 70 per cent. of pupils. The available national level information relating to pupils aged less than eight is provided in the table. An analysis at county level could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Updated information relating to spring 2008 is expected to be available by the end of June 2008.

Nursery, primary, secondary and special schools[1]: number of pupils aged less than eight by mode of travel[2, 3]. As at January 2007, England

	Pupils aged less than 8[2]	
	Number	*Percentage*
Walk	1,012,590	40.6
Cycle	16,160	0.6
Car/van	654,230	26.2
Car share	50,880	2.0
Public service bus	22,370	0.9
Dedicated school bus	26,310	1.1
Bus (type not known)	8,040	0.3
Taxi	12,060	0.5
Train	640	0.0
London underground	300	0.0
Metro/tram/light rail	320	0.0
Boarding pupil—not applicable	30	0.0
Other	7,840	0.3
Mode of travel—not collected	683,640	27.4
Total	2,495,390	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes city technology colleges, academies, maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[2] Includes pupils aged less than eight as at 31 August 2006. Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.

[3] Where a pupil uses more than one mode of travel for each journey to school, the longest element of the journey by distance should be recorded.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Special Educational Needs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's inclusion agenda on special educational needs schools. [210088]

Kevin Brennan: The Government Response to the Education and Skills Select Committee report on Special Educational Needs (October 2006) said that inclusion is about the quality of a child's experience and providing access to a high quality education which enables them to make progress in their learning and participate fully in the activities of their school and community. We see a vital and continuing role for special schools as part of an inclusive education system, meeting children's needs directly and working in much closer partnership with mainstream schools to build expertise throughout the system. We signalled our commitment to this by bringing special schools within the Department's specialist schools programme.

Some 26 special schools had already been designated as SEN specialist schools by October 2006, with funding and a specific brief to provide outreach to mainstream schools. As of 1 June 2008, there were 87 special schools designated as SEN specialist schools.

Our guidance entitled Planning and Developing Special Educational Provision: A Guide for Local Authorities and other proposers (published in March 2007) encourages local authorities to plan and commission a flexible range of provision to meet children's needs. This guidance reaffirms special schools' important role in meeting children's needs directly and in providing outreach to other schools. The guidance also reminds maintained mainstream schools that they must make provision for children on their roll who have SEN and make reasonable adjustments for disabled children.

Ofsted's survey Inclusion—does it matter where pupils are taught? (2006) said that children with SEN can do well in all types of school—access to high quality, specialist teachers and a commitment by leaders to create opportunities to include all pupils are keys to success. We are asking Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools to review progress on SEN in 2009.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to prepare teachers for the introduction of new diplomas. [209943]

Jim Knight: We provided £45 million of funding in 2007-08 and have been working with a number of partner organisations to ensure there has been a wide range of support available for those who are involved in delivering the Diploma from this September. This has included a package of blended support, comprising face to face training supplemented by a combination of materials, on-line resources and access to local teacher development networks.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on childcare grants awarded to Sure Start and children's centres in each year since 2001; how much he expects to spend on such grants in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [210618]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not award child care grant to Sure Start Children's Centres. The Department grants local authorities a revenue allocation for the operation of Sure Start Children's Centres.

Expenditure by local authorities on Sure Start Children's Centres each year since 2001 is provided in the following table. We have allocated £885 million, £1,023 million, and £1,135 million respectively in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 which includes funding for Sure Start Children's Centres. No plans have been made for subsequent years.

	Funding for children's centres (£ million)
2001-02	104.8
2002-03	174.3
2003-04	308.0
2004-05	371.2
2005-06	477.6
2006-07	603.8

Expenditure data from local authorities for 2007-08 are not yet available.

TREASURY

Combined Heat and Power: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to provide incentives for capital investment in combined heat and power technology when the existing exemption expires in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [210390]

Kitty Ussher: State aid approval for the exemption of supplies of CHP-generated electricity made by licensed utilities expires on 31 March 2013, and the Government will make an announcement on the decision to seek an extension in due course. The Chancellor keeps all taxes and associated exemptions under review.

In addition to climate change levy exemptions, the Government provide support for combined heat and power (CHP) via a number of mechanisms. For example:

The 2007 pre-Budget report stated that the Government will aim to ensure that arrangement for future phases of the EU ETS continue to recognise the carbon savings that CHP delivers;

Investment in good quality CHP is eligible for enhanced capital allowances (ECAs), which enable businesses to claim 100 per cent. first-year capital allowances on their spending on qualifying plant and machinery;

From 2010 smaller CHP plants will also receive carbon price signals from the new carbon reduction commitment;

CHP is exempt from business rates, and diesel used in CHP and certain other power stations is exempt from the hydrocarbon oils duty.

The Government will continue to assess the level of support provided to CHP in light of ongoing reviews by BERR, DEFRA and Ofgem.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect his proposed vehicle excise duty charges for band G vehicles will have on the use of such vehicles for agricultural purposes in upland rural areas. [210074]

Kitty Ussher: Vehicles used solely for agricultural purposes are exempt from vehicle excise duty.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of PAYE coding notices that will need to be reissued as a result of his decision to increase income tax personal allowances in 2008; [206651]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the time required to process new PAYE coding notices required as a result of his decision to increase income tax personal allowances for basic rate taxpayers, *(b)* the resulting staff costs and *(c)* the resulting stationery and postage costs; [206652]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely IT costs to HM Revenue and Customs of implementing his decision to increase income tax personal allowances in 2008. [206640]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 19 May 2008]*: The changes announced by the Chancellor on 13 May are being implemented using the established mechanisms for Budget changes which are designed to minimise costs as far as possible for HMRC and for employers. HMRC is working through the detailed plans for implementation, in consultation with employers, and the costs of implementation will be established as a result of that work.

Minimum Wage: Prosecutions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-4W, on minimum wage: prosecutions, what the average length of time taken by employers to pay minimum wage arrears was in the latest period for which figures are available. [203862]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will arrange for a reply to be sent to the letter of 8 April sent to the Tax Credit Office in Preston by the hon. Member for Walsall, North regarding a constituent. [208586]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]*: Tax Credit Office wrote to my hon. Friend on 2 May 2008 in response to his letter and one from his constituents, both of which were received in April 2008.

Taxation: Pensioners

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners in receipt of the state pension are UK income tax payers; and what percentage of the overall national income tax revenue was attributable to pensioners in the latest period for which figures are available. [208867]

Jane Kennedy: There are an estimated 5.0 million taxpayers of state pension age or above for 2008-09. It is not possible to calculate exactly how many individuals in receipt of the basic state pension are taxpayers. Their income tax liability accounts for around 8.8 per cent. of estimated total income tax liability for 2008-09.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the minimum income is for each family in table 4.1 of Budget 2008 who are claiming workless benefits. [194794]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: The minimum out of work income for the families in table 4.1 of Budget 2008 can be derived from DWP press notice of 5 December 2007 and HM Treasury press notice of 18 October 2007 (PN109), and are set out in the following table. Figures are rounded to the nearest pound and, consistent with table 4.1, do not include housing or council tax benefit:

	October 2008 (£)
Couple family with one child	170
Lone parent with one child	135
Single person, no children, 25	61
Couple, no children, 25 or over	95

Calculating the minimum out of work incomes for the equivalent disabled persons as those in table 4.1 is not feasible due to there being many different rates.

Tax Credits: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims there were for tax credits from taxpayers in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each month since the scheme's inception; and how many were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid. [210137]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

This information is not available on a monthly basis.

Working Tax Credit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which 35 areas have been selected for the working tax credit take-up campaign. [209847]

Jane Kennedy: The areas targeted for the November 2007 working tax credit campaign were:

Carmarthenshire
Ceredigion
Clackmannanshire
Cleveland
Cornwall
Cumbria
Derbyshire
Devon
Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee City
Durham
Eilean Siar
Greater Glasgow

Gwynedd
East Sussex
East Yorkshire
Greater London
Greater Manchester
Isle of Wight
Lancashire
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Merseyside
Norfolk
Northern Ireland
Northumberland
North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire
Pembrokeshire
South Wales (Glamorgan and Gwent)
South Yorkshire
Staffordshire
Suffolk
Tyne and Wear
West Midlands

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of people who are eligible for working tax credit but have not applied for it. [210250]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of households entitled to but not claiming working tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are published in Table 1 of the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

Fuels

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of the distribution or sale of illegal fuel in the last 12 months. [210053]

Kitty Ussher: In the last 12 months, eight people have been convicted of hydrocarbon oils fraud in Northern Ireland. In that period, six have been arrested in relation to suspected hydrocarbon oils fraud in cases which are being dealt with by information and summons.

In the same period, in mainland Great Britain, one case involving four defendants has reached the prosecution stage.

The number of people convicted in relation to hydrocarbon oils fraud in mainland Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the period 2007-08 will be published in the HMRC autumn performance report 2008, later this year.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how levels of child binge drinking are measured; and how these levels have changed over the last five years. [208777]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

There is no agreed definition of binge drinking for young people. The smoking, drinking and drug use survey of secondary school children in England provides national estimates of the proportions of young people aged 11 to 15 who smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs. We have used those data between 2001 and 2006 to summarise the units of alcohol consumed by young people in the previous seven days.

Units of alcohol consumed in last seven days by pupils in the SDD survey, 2001-06

						Percentage
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number not drinking alcohol in last week	77.2	79.3	78.5	80.4	81.0	82.6
More than 0 but less than four units of alcohol drunk in last week	8.0	6.1	7.0	6.0	5.9	5.4
Four to less than eight units of alcohol drunk in last week	5.2	4.9	5.4	4.4	4.8	3.9
Eight to less than 12 units of alcohol drunk in last week	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.3
12 to less than 20 units of alcohol drunk in last week	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.0
20 or more units of alcohol drunk in last seven days	3.0	2.9	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.8

Data taken from the smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2001-06 surveys published by the NHS information Centre and Department of Health.

The table shows the percentage of young people not drinking any alcohol in the last seven days has increased over the last five years, from 77.2 per cent. in 2001 to 82.6 per cent. in 2006. Also the percentage of pupils drinking less than eight units has similarly decreased from 13.2 per cent. in 2001 to 9.3 per cent. in 2006. However the percentage of pupils drinking eight or more units in the last seven days has remained fairly stable between 2001 and 2006.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 19, (iii) 20 to 25, (iv) 26 to 30, (v) 31 to 40, (vi) 41 to 50, (vii) 51 to 60 and (viii) 61 and over have been cautioned, proceeded against or received a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area. [203254]

Mr. Coaker: The number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 16, (ii) 16 to 19, (iii) 20 to 25, (iv) 26 to 30, (v) 31 to 40, (vi) 41 to 50, (vii) 51 to 60 and (viii) 61 and over that have been cautioned, proceeded against or received a penalty notice for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area has been provided in the tables placed in the House Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to tackle binge drinking among adults. [206022]

Mr. Coaker: The Government take the issue of binge drinking very seriously. In 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', the Government set out their plans to tackle binge drinking, particularly focusing on the 18 to 24 age group. The Government are committed to challenging the binge drinking culture through a sustained national campaign to reduce the acceptability of public drunkenness and to increase the awareness of the health harms associated with excessive drinking. The 'Know Your Limits' campaign started in June 2008, and aims to raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol to ensure that everyone has the information they need to estimate more accurately how much they drink. The Government will also build on the 'Know Your Limits' campaign to raise awareness of the risks of harmful drinking, and will target information and advice towards people who drink at harmful levels, and their families and friends.

The Government will also continue to take tough enforcement action against those individuals who exhibit unacceptable behaviour while intoxicated. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 brought in a range of additional measures to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder, including directions to leave which enable the police to ban a person from a locality for a maximum of 48 hours. The Government have also funded four alcohol arrest referral pilots which target alcohol related offenders with the aim of providing interventions to drive home messages about alcohol and risks and to promote behaviour change. The pilots will be extended to a number of other areas by the end of 2008.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on asylum, if she will give a breakdown by nationality of the asylum claimants who received leave to remain as a result of grant of *(a)* asylum, *(b)* humanitarian protection and *(c)* discretionary leave in the categories (i) Europe other, (ii) Americas other, (iii) Africa other, (iv) Middle East other and (v) Asia other; and how many dependants received leave to remain in each of these categories and nationalities. [198258]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 1 April 2008]*: The available information is given in the tables placed in the House Library.

Information on asylum decisions, including dependants, by nationality is published annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Iraq

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens who applied for asylum as a result of their work for UK forces in Iraq had been granted asylum by 31 March 2008. [209081]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the reasons for grants of asylum is not collated centrally. Establishing how many Iraqi citizens were granted asylum as a result of their work for the UK forces could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Under the separate scheme of assistance for locally engaged Iraqi staff, published by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in his written ministerial statements of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27WS-28WS, and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30WS-33WS, certain Iraqi citizens are eligible for assistance as a result of their work for UK forces in Iraq. This scheme provides for individuals who meet the published criteria to qualify for a financial package, indefinite leave to enter the UK, or resettlement to the UK under the Gateway refugee resettlement programme for eligible staff: it does not represent a grant of asylum. Under immigration rules, asylum cannot be claimed from abroad.

Asylum: Uzbekistan

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan; and what account she has taken of those representations in the Government's policy on asylum seekers from that country. [209717]

Mr. Byrne: Representations were received from a number of Members in light of a recent individual Uzbeki asylum case asking the Home Office to refrain from removing all failed asylum seekers to Uzbekistan. We closely monitor conditions in Uzbekistan and recognise that there are some individuals who are able to demonstrate a need for international protection. We do not, however, consider that each and every Uzbeki who applies for asylum is in need of international protection. As with all other asylum claims, Uzbeki asylum claims are considered very carefully on their individual merits against the background of the latest country information.

Border and Immigration Agency: Pay

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the Border and Immigration Agency were given performance-related bonuses or cash payments over £10,000 in each of the last five years; and how much was paid in such payments in each such year. [205454]

Mr. Byrne: There are no records of staff members being paid bonuses in excess of £10,000 in 2004-05 and 2005-06. One member of staff received performance-related bonus of £12,197 in 2006-07. Data on performance-related bonus payments paid in previously years are not centrally recorded and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Data are not yet available on bonus payments for 2007-08.

e-Borders: Channel Tunnel

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from businesses involved with operations through the Channel Tunnel about the introduction of e-Borders; and if she will make a statement. [209083]

Mr. Byrne: Representations have been received from a number of businesses which include Eurotunnel, the British Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Tour Operators.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) consultation held from 1 August 2007 to 24 October 2007 also had responses from across industry (including Eurotunnel) and subsequently elements of the RIA were amended to reflect the concerns of industry.

The e-Borders programme continues to engage with the industry to resolve the concerns and to develop a solution which both improves security at the UK border and takes account of the business needs of industry.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effect on the time taken for travellers to travel through the Channel Tunnel of the introduction of e-borders. [209084]

Mr. Byrne: The e-Borders Programme is committed to working with Eurotunnel and other stakeholders to develop a solution which both improves security at the UK border, and takes account of industry business needs.

An assessment of the impact on travellers will form part of the constructive engagement taking place between the programme and the industry in the development of a range of potential solutions that will permit the operation of a secure, comprehensive and flexible border control.

The work that has been undertaken to date is focused on maintaining or improving the total transit time in an e-Borders environment. The e-Borders team will continue to work in partnership with Eurotunnel to refine the process.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [185423]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office owns and maintains a large number of databases. Information about all databases is not held centrally, however centrally held records do indicate that the Department and its agencies own and maintain the following major, business critical databases:

Home Office

- Adelphi
- Employment Checks Database

Border Agency

- Case Information System (CID)
- Asylum Support System (ASYS)
- Immigration and Asylum Fingerprints System (IAFS)
- GLOBE (Work Permits System)
- Warnings Index
- eBorders database
- Proviso (visa processing)
- Athena (intelligence)

Identity and Passport Service

- PASS Database (Passports)

Criminal Records Bureau

- Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment she has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207219]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed by her Department since 1 January 2007 have been discovered not to have the right to work in the United Kingdom. [206262]

Mr. Byrne: No members of staff employed by the Home Office since 1 January 2007 (including those employed by the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau) have been discovered not to have the right to work in the United Kingdom.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the special advisers employed in her Department since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184369]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special advisers her Department employs; and what the cost of employing special advisers was in each year since 1997. [200501]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office currently employs two special advisers. Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on car hire outside the Government Car Service in each year since 1997; and whether her Department required particular specifications of the cars hired. [201603]

Mr. Byrne: Information on spend is available from 2005-06 following the introduction of the Department's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. Collation of information prior to this date is available only at disproportionate cost. The Department's spend on car hire outside the Government Car Service since 2005-06 is as follows:

£

	FY 2005-06	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*
Home Office Headquarters	660,014	361,440	284,340
Criminal Records Bureau	n/k	20,669	15,310
Identity and Passport Service	n/k	7,161	35,419
Total	660,014	389,270	335,069

The Department does not have any special specifications for the cars hired and uses standard vehicles.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208517]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounts system does not hold the information at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what property has been lost or stolen from her Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187462]

Mr. Byrne: Property recorded as lost by or stolen from the Department is shown in the following table.

	Item	*Value (£)*
2001-02		
Lost	Cash and equipment	802
Stolen	Laptops	9,453
	4 Mobile phones	n/k
	Overhead projector	1,893
	Computer equipment	n/k
	Computer equipment	6,124
	Fraudulent use of government procurement card	200
	Polaroid camera	800
2002-03		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	Computer equipment	17,874
	Two projectors	2,065
	Laptop	1,500
	Motor Vehicle	10,300
2003-04		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	9 mobile finger printing units	13,455
2004-05		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	Computer equipment	10,000
2005-06		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	Laptop	1,000
2006-07		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	8 assets	3,550
2007-08		
Lost	—	0
Stolen	10 assets	8,905

n/k = Not known

Information prior to 2001-02 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Following new Treasury reporting procedures, introduced in 2006-07, the details of stolen assets are not specified.

The Department has guidelines which should be followed in the event of a theft or loss. All reported thefts or losses are investigated and appropriate action is taken in the light of these investigations.

Departmental Stationery

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery in each year since 1997. [200481]

Mr. Byrne: The ordering of *(a)* branded stationery comprising: letter headings, compliment slips and business cards is a devolved activity and spend is not centrally recorded. Collation of information on annual spend on *(a)* branded stationery since 1997 is available only at disproportionate cost. The total value of spend for the two-year period from April 2006 until March 2008 is, however, available and amounted to £174,000.

Information on spend on *(b)* non-branded stationery is available from 2005-06 following the introduction of the Department's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Collation of information prior to this date is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's spend on *(b)* non-branded stationery since 2005-06 is as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2005-06	3,900,000
2006-07	3,700,000
2007-08	3,600,000

Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* work permit holders, *(b)* dependants of work permit holders, *(c)* highly skilled migrants and *(d)* dependants of highly skilled migrants were given leave to enter the UK in (i) each year since 1987 and (ii) each quarter since 1st January 2004. [206513]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 May 2008]*: The requested annual information on work permit holders and their dependants is published annually in the Home Office Command Paper 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The quarterly data from 2004 is shown in the following table.

Information on highly skilled migrants and their dependants given leave to enter will be published on 20 August 2008, in the 2007 Home Office Command Paper, as these data have only been available since June 2007.

Work permit holders and dependants[1] given leave to enter the United Kingdom, excluding EEA Swiss nationals, 2004 to 2006[2]

Number of persons

Year/quarter	*Work permit holders*	*Dependants of work permit holders*
2004[1]	82,655	41,545
of which:		
Quarter 1	21,150	8,895
Quarter 2	21,825	10,845
Quarter 3	22,115	12,720
Quarter 4	17,565	9,085
2005	91,515	45,520
of which:		
Quarter 1	21,185	9,880
Quarter 2	25,755	12,175
Quarter 3	24,270	13,530
Quarter 4	20,305	9,935
2006	96,605	48,515
of which:		
Quarter 1	21,345	70,380
Quarter 2	26,680	72,970
Quarter 3	27,390	74,770
Quarter 4	21,165	70,450

[1] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May, but excludes them from this date.

[2] Provisional and subject to change.

Note:

Data rounded to the nearest five, therefore they may not sum to the totals shown.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa centres her Department has in *(a)* Russia, *(b)* India and *(c)* China. [210128]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: There are three visa application centres in Russia, 12 in India and 12 in China.

Points-based System

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system by 31st May 2008. [208989]

Mr. Byrne: The number of sponsors who had applied for registration to sponsor migrants under the points-based system by 31 May 2008 was 125.

Note:

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of businesses likely to apply for a licence to sponsor migrants in 2008 who had not done so by 31 May 2008. [208991]

Mr. Byrne: Our planning assessment indicates that potentially 14,000 sponsors may apply for registration to sponsor migrants by the end of this year.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will put in place measures to ensure that imams in the United Kingdom who have been issued with religious visas do not espouse a doctrine of violence against those who wish to leave the Islamic faith. [208792]

Mr. Byrne: With the introduction of the points-based system (PBS) for managing migration, only genuine and reputable employers will be granted a licence to bring migrants to the UK, and this will include religious organisations wishing to bring in religious workers. This is in addition to other measures already in place, such as the screening of passengers at ports, the use of alerts and watch-lists, and checking biometrics taken from visa applicants. The Home Secretary also has the power to exclude or deport from the UK those non-UK nationals whose presence here is not conducive to the public good. This would include those who come within the scope of the list of unacceptable behaviours announced by the former Home Secretary on 24 August 2005.

We are building on the work that local communities, institutions and organisations are already taking forward to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists. We see faith leaders as central to a co-ordinated effort to stop promoters of violent extremism from operating unchallenged.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from the catering industry on the points-based immigration system; which groups she met as part of the development process of the points-based system before it was introduced; how many catering or restaurant groups and organisations she met as part of the development process; and what processes will exist to monitor the sex, age and country of origin of immigrants entering the UK through the points-based system. [202716]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office sent its consultation on proposals for a points-based system to 52 representative groups and employers in the hospitality and catering industry and received 10 responses. I have had meetings with interest groups on the development of the points-based system including the Bangladeshi Caterers Association and representatives of the Chinese community. The British Hospitality Association is represented on the Employer Taskforce which, as a consultative group, has informed development of the points-based system. The Home Office will publish an equality impact assessment when it publishes a statement of intent in respect of its proposals for tier 2 of the points-based system and this will indicate what measures will be put in place to monitor race, age and gender impacts.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many compliance officers are employed by her Department to make checks on job roles, qualifications and salary under the points-based system; and what the average caseload of each compliance officer is; [208117]

(2) how many account managers are employed by her Department to provide help and guidance to sponsors in discharging their responsibilities under the points-based system; and what the average caseload of each account manager is. [208118]

Mr. Byrne: There are at present 160 Visiting Officers across the UK who undertake the compliance and account management function under the points-based system.

This figure is likely to increase by March 2009.

The current average caseload of each Visiting Officer is 3.5 visits each week.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of employing *(a)* account managers and *(b)* compliance officers to deal with sponsorship and compliance under the points-based system in each of the next 10 years. [208182]

Mr. Byrne: The forecast cost for the current financial year is £6.7 million.

Requirements for future years will be reviewed in due course.

HOPS Student Exchange Programme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas were offered under the HOPS student exchange programme in 2008; and what representations she has received from farmers on the number of places for migrant labourers to enter the UK on the scheme. [208633]

Mr. Byrne: The HOPS student exchange programme is not administered by the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency has a Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) that enables the provision of short term, low skilled workers to be employed in the agricultural industry

The SAWS annual quota for 2008 is 16,250. The quota is managed by nine contracted operators who issue work cards on behalf of the UK Border Agency.

The scheme is exclusively available to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals, therefore no visa is required.

The Secretary of State has received representations from farmers wishing to see an increase in the number of places available on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers programme and for this scheme to be opened to migrants from outside the European Union.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) and I recently met with the National Farmers' Union and representatives of SAWS operators at which we discussed the labour needs of the agricultural industry and the challenges facing it for the future. We shall continue to keep in touch with the industry on these issues.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on the Fair trade initiative, at what buildings fairtrade products are *(a)* provided and *(b)* not provided at official meetings and functions. [209030]

Mr. Byrne: Fairtrade products are provided for official meetings and functions at 2 Marsham Street, the Home Office Headquarters building. We do not collate information centrally on the availability of Fairtrade goods at other buildings on the Home Office estate.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much and what proportion of revenue from her Department's staff catering facilities was accounted for by Fairtrade products in each of the last three financial years. [209031]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available. The Department does not receive information on revenue at its staff catering facilities as this is the responsibility of the catering suppliers.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers from A8 countries have worked in the UK since 2004. [206460]

Mr. Byrne: Information on A8 workers, who have registered under the Worker Registration Scheme, which started in May 2004, is available on the following link, although not all A8 migrant workers need to register under the Worker Registration Scheme.

A copy of the Accession Monitoring Report is available in the House Library.

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will include checks for trafficked victims as part of the new watch list being introduced for aircraft passengers on high-risk routes. [207267]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* e-Borders will require commercial carriers and owner/operators of all vessels scheduled to arrive in or depart the UK to submit to the e-Borders system, and provide detailed passenger, service and crew data prior to their departure to and from the UK.

Those data will be checked against watch lists, analysed, risk assessed and shared between UK border agencies. It will improve border security and assist in the fight against organised crime and illegal migration.

The UK Border Agency maintains a watch list of information and intelligence which is used to inform decisions. It is longstanding policy not to disclose the specific data held on this watchlist or the source of the data on it.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on human trafficking, what definition of the term juxtaposed controls she uses. [209865]

Mr. Byrne: Juxtaposed controls were introduced in France and Belgium to further strengthen and enhance the protection of the UK borders. Juxtaposed controls are established through bilateral agreements and allow the authorities of two states to operate frontier controls alongside each other in both states. They are fully reciprocal.

This reciprocal arrangement provides the French authorities with the facilities to operate their frontier control from the United Kingdom, while the UK Border Agency operates the UK frontier control from France and Belgium. This effectively allows UK Border Agency staff to check 100 per cent. of all passengers and their documents before they disembark to enter the UK. The French authorities, Police Aux Frontieres (PAF), are responsible for managing the security of the French border and do so from the English side of the juxtaposed control.

Juxtaposed controls have existed at the Channel Tunnel sites in Coquelles and Cheriton since the opening of the Tunnel System in 1994. The arrangements are governed by the Sangatte Protocol under the treaty of Canterbury. On 29 May 2000, the Additional Protocol to the Sangatte Protocol was signed to allow commencement of juxtaposed controls at designated Eurostar terminals in France.

The Anglo-French Le Touquet Treaty was signed on 4 February 2003, giving UK Border Agency staff the power to operate a juxtaposed control in France at the northern French Seaports of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque.

Juxtaposed controls currently operate at Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque ferry ports, as well as the Eurotunnel terminal at Coquelles, and the Eurostar stations of Brussels, Paris, Lille and Frethun.

The French authorities operate their controls in the UK at St. Pancras, Ebbsfleet, Ashford International, Dover and Cheriton. These are the UK terminals which are currently served by the French operations covered under the terms of the various Treaties and Protocols which govern the operation of juxtaposed controls.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 88W, on identity cards: foreigners, for what reasons the fingerprint biometrics will be stored on an embedded chip in an identity card instead of holding fingerprint records centrally. [207704]

Mr. Byrne: Two fingerprints will be stored on an embedded chip in an identity card for foreign nationals to comply with EU regulations. However, a full set of fingerprints will also be held on the same database already used to store fingerprints recorded by foreign nationals when applying for visas.

Illegal Immigrants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has made to French authorities in Calais on the use by British border guards of X-ray machines to detect illegal immigrants in lorries; and if she will make a statement. [178842]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The UK and France are committed to working jointly to tackle the issue of illegal immigration. This commitment was further enhanced at the recent UK-France summit. During the summit, British and French Ministers agreed to implement a number of measures to strengthen the security and quality of border controls in Calais and to develop a joint action plan to look more broadly at the continuing pressure from illegal migration in the Pas de Calais region.

In addition to these concrete proposals on further improving the very effective measures already in place to combat cross channel people smuggling and abuse of UK immigration laws, we continue to explain to the French Government the benefits of deploying gamma scanners in France in order to seek agreement to their deployment.

Although current French domestic health and safety legislation prevents the use of X-ray and gamma ray radiation for the purpose of searching for people we do deploy gamma ray search scanners to search for clandestines in the UK and Belgium.

In France, the Border and Immigration Agency uses a range of effective detection technology to search for people. This includes passive millimetre wave imaging which uses natural radiation, heartbeat detections, carbon dioxide probes and search dogs.

The UK and France are committed to combating illegal immigration and in the port of Calais throughout 2007, with the assistance of Calais Chamber of Commerce (CCCI), Eamus Cork Security (ECS), Border and Immigration Agency staff successfully prevented 11,700 clandestine attempts from crossing the channel to enter the UK. An additional 2,159 people were also refused entry to the UK.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040, what definition of lorry drops her Department uses in relation to the detection and detaining of suspected illegal immigrants. [202570]

Mr. Byrne: Clandestine illegal entrants include those who enter concealed in a vehicle including lorries, vans, caravans, motor homes or any other commercial vehicle. If a police or immigration officer is satisfied that an illegal entrant has arrived clandestinely within the last 72 hours, by whatever means of transport, then the person's arrival is a clandestine event. In enforcement this is commonly referred to as a "lorry drop".

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have been successfully prosecuted for employing illegal immigrants. [175177]

Mr. Byrne: National Statistics showing the number of persons proceeded against and found guilty under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in England and Wales are shown in the accompanying table.

The measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which provide the UK Border Agency with a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance, came into force on 29 February 2008. The 2006 Act introduced a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which carries a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in England and Wales, 1997-2006[1, 2]

Number of persons

Employing a person aged 16 and above subject to immigration control	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[3]*	*2006[3]*
Proceeded against	0	1	4	10	5	2	2	11	23	11
Found guilty	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	8	13	7

[1] Principal immigration offence.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures are provisional.

Immigrants: Employment

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, on the UK Border Agency detention estate, how many illegal working operations have been mounted in each month of 2008. [208719]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to a much tougher approach to enforcing the immigration rules, including targeting illegal migrant working and its harmful social effects.

The number of illegal working operations in each month of 2008 and 2007 (1 January to 30 April each year) are as follows:

	Illegal working enforcement visits	
	2007	*2008*
January	496	914
February	464	732
March	490	668
April	489	589

The total number of operations carried out in the first four months of 2008 is 2,903. This is an increase of 49 per cent. in comparison with the same period in 2007. The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Immigrants: Detainees

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any civil proceedings were settled in court against *(a)* her Department's employees and *(b)* contractors' employees, including immigration removal centre staff and immigration escort staff, for assaults against immigrants detained in immigration removal centres or immigrants who have formally been detained in immigration removal centres in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [208821]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency does not hold this information in the format requested.

Immigration: Catering

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the demand for and supply of labour in the ethnic catering business and the effect on immigration policies; whether she plans to give consideration to placing all ethnic catering on the shortage occupation list; and how many immigration enforcement raids there have been in the last 12 months in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the south-west on catering outlets. [203330]

Mr. Byrne: It will be for the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to make an assessment of labour market conditions in particular sectors of the economy and advise whether, as a consequence, particular occupations should appear on the shortage occupation list. The MAC has been tasked with producing a shortage occupation list in June 2008.

Internal management information, which may be subject to change, indicates that there were a total of 3,473 enforcement visits carried out at restaurants and takeaways in 2007-08 of which 420 were carried out in Wales and the south-west for the same period.

Immigration: Local Authorities

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 96W, on immigration: local authorities, which local authorities have *(a)* expressed an interest in submitting claims and *(b)* submitted a claim to the transitional costs fund; what the value of claims submitted is; what the timetable for (i) submitting claims and (ii) receiving payment is; and what plans she has for a transitional costs fund for subsequent years. [203510]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold information centrally on those local authorities who have expressed an interest in submitting a claim.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply published on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 276W.

Originally the timetable was for initial claims to be made by January 15 with payment by February, further claims to be made by 30 April with payment by May/June 2008 and remaining claims for 2007-08 were requested to be received by 30 June 2008. The 30 April deadline was extended to 23 May in order to give local authorities more time to complete their claim. Final claims for reimbursement during 2008-09 should be made by 31 March 2009.

In regard to future plans the UK Border Agency will be in touch with key local stakeholders including local authorities, via the regional links already in place to further discuss how we can best plan the conclusion of cases going forward in their local area.

Immigration: Tribunals

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of cases presented in asylum and immigration tribunals by each of her Department's presenting officers was in 2007. [209079]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the average number of cases presented by a presenting officer is not available. However, a full-time presenting officer is expected to go to court 11 days per month and present a scheduled list of cases on each of those days. Depending on the different types of cases listed (asylum, managed migration, entry clearance) and the time they take to be heard, the number to be presented can vary from one to eight per day.

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times her Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205004]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on usage of VIP lounges. To provide the requested detail would incur disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken to reply to the letter of 29 February 2008 from the hon. Member for North Down in relation to Mrs Margaret Rippey. [209624]

Mr. Byrne: The delay was due to an administrative error.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 3 January 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, transferred from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 2 April, on the security of personal data of British nationals. [209982]

Mr. Byrne: *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport offered the hon. Member's letter to the Home Office for reply on 2 April 2008. It was declined the same day because the subject matter of the letter is not the responsibility of the Home Office.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter of 27 March 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent, reference M4885/8. [208653]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5June 2008]:* I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 5 June 2008.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency will reply to the right hon. Member for Warley's letter of 11 April 2008 regarding Mr Z. S. Suleiman. [209345]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 5 June 2008.

UK Border Agency: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the length of the training period was for *(a)* immigration officers and *(b)* asylum officers before taking up their new responsibilities in the UK Border Agency. [208988]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration officers undertake an intensive five-week Learning and Development Induction Programme along with at least four weeks mentoring by a senior colleague.

Training to support the implementation of the future model for the Border Force has focused on five flagship locations (Gatwick, Edinburgh, Coquelles, Harwich and Teesport) where immigration officers are receiving an additional two days training to enable them to profile and question for customs purposes on the front-line. A number of HMRC staff joining the Border Force are receiving two weeks training to enable them to process passengers on the primary line for immigration purposes and to examine travel documents for forgery. In addition, HMRC staff at freight ports are receiving two days training to search for clandestine entrants. Following the roll-out of the flagship sites, training will be reviewed before the next phase of implementation.

All asylum case owners continue to undergo a 55-day Foundation Training Programme, including periods of mentoring and coaching, which has recently been updated to reflect internal and external feedback.

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from each African country in 2007. [206257]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of work permit applications from nurses and doctors from African countries that were approved in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Work permit applications cleared between 1 January and 31 December 2007

	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*
Botswana	0	35	35
Burundi	0	[1]	0
Cameroon	[1]	20	20
Congo	0	[1]	0
Egypt	35	0	35
Gambia	0	10	10
Ghana	5	195	200
Kenya	[1]	90	95
Lesotho	[1]	25	25
Libya	5	0	5
Malawi	[1]	35	35
Mauritius	0	145	145
Namibia	0	10	10
Nigeria	20	385	405
Rwanda	0	[1]	0
Seychelles	0	5	5
Sierra Leone	0	20	20
Somalia	0	[1]	0
South Africa	135	540	675
Sudan	15	0	15
Swaziland	0	25	25
Tanzania	[1]	20	20
Togo	0	[1]	0
Uganda	[1]	30	30
Zambia	0	135	135
Zimbabwe	5	1,050	1,055
Total	230	2,780	3,005

[1] Indicates figure of 1 or 2.

Note:

Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 162351, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on work-permit holders. [171149]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W.

JUSTICE

Victims Surcharge

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what charitable and voluntary organisations which provide support to victims of domestic violence and abuse received support from the Victims Surcharge in 2007-08; how much each organisation received; and what procedures there are for applications to be made to the funds; [209919]

(2) what criteria charitable and voluntary groups concerned with redress for domestic violence and abuse have to meet to be eligible for payments from the Victims Surcharge. [209932]

Bridget Prentice: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 272-75W.

Services supporting the 64 specialist domestic violence courts in operation at the end of 2006-07 were automatically considered for funding for 2007-08 upon receipt of satisfactory performance information.

Invitations to bid for funding were sent on 8 June 2007 from the SDVC steering group to all Home Office regional directors, Government office DV leads, the SDVC expert panel, Crown Prosecution Service co-ordinators, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership chairs, HMCS area directors and Justices' clerks. Those contacts were asked to forward the invitation to services in non-SDVC areas and those whom they knew to be interested in SDVC accreditation.

Services were invited to apply for funding on the provision of service workload information, level of accredited training completed, supervision and monitoring structures, evidence of partnership working (for example their level of involvement with multi-agency risk assessment conferences), plans to develop a SDVC and/or other project initiative such as links to support in the family courts.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which men's support groups have received awards from the Victims Surcharge in the last 12 months. [209933]

Maria Eagle: The revenue raised from the Victims Surcharge has been used to fund a wide range of services for victims and witnesses. This includes: Witness Care Units; Victim Support Plus; Independent Domestic Violence Advisors; and the Victims Fund. Many of these services are not gender specific. Survivors UK, which provides targeted support for male victims of sexual abuse and rape, received a grant of £30,000 in 2007-08 from the Victims Fund. This grant has been renewed for 2008-09.

Freedom of Information: Conferences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contribution *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department made to the Freedom of Information Live 2008 conference on 3 June 2008; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such contribution. [209931]

Mr. Wills: I gave a keynote address to the FOI Live conference on 3 June 2008. A Ministry of Justice official contributed to the conference by delivering a 'Practitioner Update' presentation and two other officials chaired sessions at the event. The presentations and recordings from the event are available on the University College London Constitution Unit website:

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/foidp/events/foilive2008.html

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders were issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* each local authority area in Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [210135]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in all county courts in the Hertfordshire region and in England since 1997.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Table 1. Mortgage[1] possession orders[2, 3] in the county courts[4] of Hertfordshire since 1997

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Hertford[5]	111	189	103	86	58	78	88	86	134	198	
Hitchin[5]	252	402	218	151	154	151	155	183	288	321	
St. Albans[5]	77	68	72	59	53	45	87	78	102	158	
Watford	188	463	284	241	217	224	249	258	418	516	508
Hemel Hempstead[6]	72	91									
Bishop's Stortford[6]	75										
Hertfordshire	775	1,213	677	537	482	498	579	605	942	1,193	
South East	14,019	15,745	9,934	8,936	8,099	7,422	8,201	10,050	15,220	17,693	17,824
England	53,530	61,581	52,370	47,033	44,459	38,631	38,210	44,036	67,019	85,244	88,993

Table 2: Landlord[7, 8, 9] possession orders[2, 3] in the county courts[4] of Hertfordshire since 1999

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Hertford[6]	288	283	266	217	257	253	247	191	
Hitchin[6]	435	429	532	505	492	412	375	316	
St. Albans[6]	276	271	270	230	291	264	290	277	
Watford	806	848	1,130	935	830	893	907	812	653
Hertfordshire	1,805	1,831	2,198	1,887	1,870	1,822	1,819	1,596	
South East	19,284	21,730	21,061	21,308	20,336	19,834	19,157	18,093	18,973
England	116,446	121,434	125,477	126,089	114,589	111,782	106,681	100,912	100,761

[1] Mortgage data include all types of lenders.

[2] Orders include both suspended orders and non-suspended orders.

[3] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[4] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.

[5] The roll-out of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court-level data on mortgage possession orders. As a result, it is only possible to provide court-level figures for those courts with direct on-site PCOL access for 2007. Therefore, upward adjustments have been made for the missing data at HMCS regional level, which for Hertfordshire is the South East.

[6] Courts now closed or merged with other county courts.

[7] Landlord data include all types of landlords.

[8] Court level data are not available for all landlord possession actions prior to 1999.

[9] Landlord possession orders made through standard and accelerated procedures.

Source:

Ministry of Justice.

Office of the Public Guardian

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent changes have taken place in the *(a)* senior personnel and *(b)* administrative practices of the Office of the Public Guardian; and if he will make a statement. [210150]

Bridget Prentice: Richard Brook, the Public Guardian and Chief Executive of the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) informed the Ministry of Justice in April of his intention to resign in order to take up a position within the charity sector. Beyond Richard's planned departure in July, there have been no other changes to senior staff within the OPG or Court of Protection. The Ministry of Justice, is currently in the process of appointing his successor and we will announce shortly.

The administrative practices in the Office of the Public Guardian are largely determined by its governing legislation, the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Those practices are kept under review but have not recently been changed, although additional resources—both staff and IT capacity—have been provided to deal with current high volumes of work.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many Lasting Powers of Attorney have been registered by the Office of the Public Guardian under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 since their introduction; [209313]

(2) how many Enduring Powers of Attorney were registered by the Office of the Public Guardian between *(a)* October 2006 and October 2007 and *(b)* October 2005 and October 2006; [209314]

(3) what assessment he has made of the implementation of Lasting Powers of Attorney by the Office of the Public Guardian under the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [209316]

Bridget Prentice: In the eight-month period between the commencement of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in October 2007 and 4 June 2008, the Office of the Public Guardian has completed registration of 3,429 Lasting Powers of Attorney. During the same period it has completed registration of 13,939 Enduring Powers of Attorney.

Before October 2007 the Court of Protection was responsible for registering Enduring Powers of Attorney. Between October 2005 and October 2006 the Court registered 17,319 Enduring Powers of Attorney and between October 2006 and October 2007 it registered 20,585 powers.

Those figures indicate a significant increase in the number of powers attorney that have been registered with the OPG in its first eight months of operation. The figures do not include those applications already received that are still being processed, or where the OPG has sought further information. In addition, the OPG is continuing to see increases in the number of applications from month to month.

The Office of the Public Guardian will be reviewing the effectiveness of the Mental Capacity Act from October 2008 once it has been operation for a full year and there has been an opportunity to see how well it is working in practice. As part of this review the OPG will be looking at the way the new Lasting Powers of Attorney are operating, including their design and the accompanying guidance and determining what changes might be necessary or desirable.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on policy to secure agreement with other countries on the transfer to them of prisoners of their nationality held in the UK. [210059]

Mr. Hanson: A trilateral meeting h[illegible]een established to discuss issues relating to the removal of foreign nationals from the United Kingdom, including the transfer of foreign national prisoners to their own country. The meeting is attended by Ministers of State from the Ministry of Justice, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Home Office. The group met on 5 June. Other meetings with ministerial colleagues take place on an ad hoc basis as necessary.

Prisons: Population

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects prison capacity in England and Wales to reach 86,000; and if he will make a statement. [210634]

Mr. Straw: I will respond to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Small Claims

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in how many small claims cases in the county court in 2007 parties were represented at any stage by *(a)* counsel and *(b)* a solicitor; [210073]

(2) how many claimants in small claims cases in the county court appeared at court in person in 2007; [210080]

(3) how many complaints his Department received on the *(a)* system and *(b)* procedures of the small claims court in each of the last three years; and what three subjects were most frequently raised in such complaints; [210081]

(4) how many successful small claims made in the county court in 2007 resulted in *(a)* recovery of monies claimed without recourse to further action, *(b)* recovery of monies claimed following intervention of bailiffs and *(c)* failure to recover monies claimed; [210082]

(5) what average time elapsed between commencement and finish of county court cases for claims under the value of £5,000 which were defended and had a hearing in Chambers or courts in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2007; [210083]

(6) how many claims under £5,000 were lodged in the county court in 2007; how many were defended with *(a)* a defence and *(b)* a counterclaim; and how many defended actions were heard in (i) open court and (ii) in chambers. [210084]

Bridget Prentice: Table 1 shows the numbers of small claims in the county courts of England and Wales in 2007, broken down according to whether the claimant was represented and whether the defendant was represented in each case. The data were sourced from the main administrative system in the county courts (CaseMan) which holds the details of legal representatives, but not whether these were barristers (counsel) or solicitors. Representation details can be added, amended or deleted from CaseMan at any stage during a case's progression through the court. The figures shown reflect the latest recorded data on representation in small claims hearings that took place during 2007.

Based on these figures it can be calculated that 32,163 (60 per cent.) of the 53,226 small claims hearings in 2007 involved at least one party which had legal representation. Claimants were not legally represented in 28,362 (53 per cent.) of cases.

HM Courts Service (HMCS) records its centrally received user complaints in one of 10 categories. These relate to the stage of the court process which prompted the complaint, rather than to the type of case being heard. It is therefore not possible to identify complaints that explicitly relate to small claims cases. However, Table 2 shows a breakdown by category of all complaints received centrally by HMCS in the last three financial years. These figures cover all areas of HM Courts Service business, encompassing over 1 million small claims among a total of over 4 million cases per year across civil, criminal and family justice.

During 2007, county court bailiffs recovered an average of 89.5 pence in the pound from correctly directed warrants of execution (i.e. where the creditor supplied the correct address) across all cases in the county courts of England and Wales in 2007. Data are not currently available for small claims alone, or on the recovery of monies other than through the actions of county court bailiffs.

During 2007, there were an average of 28 weeks between the date of issue and the date of hearing for small claims (whether for specified or unspecified amounts) disposed of at hearing in England and Wales. The equivalent figure for 2000 was 29 weeks, although there were changes in the data collection method during the intervening period meaning that the comparison should be treated with caution.

There were 1.194 million claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales for specified amounts of £5,000 or less during 2007. Of these, 382,000 (32 per cent. of the total) were issued at named local county courts, rather than via the Money Claims On-Line (MCOL) service or the County Court Bulk Centre (CCBC). There were 92,000 defences entered in response to these locally-issued claims, with 11,000 of these defences incorporating a counterclaim.

In addition, there were 107,000 claims issued via MCOL or the CCBC which were transferred into local county courts after either a defence or a counterclaim was received. Most of these claims will relate to specified amounts of £5,000 or less, and therefore the total number of defences issued for all claims of this type (regardless of the issuing route) is around 200,000. However, please note that a single claim can name more than one defendant, and can therefore lead to more than one defence being entered.

During 2007, there were 49,000 small claims hearings in claims involving specified amounts of £5,000. These claims may have originally been issued in 2007 or in earlier years. Information is not available on whether these hearings took place in open court or in chambers.

Please note that all figures given for the year 2007 should be considered provisional. Final figures for this year will be published in the Ministry of Justice report "Judicial and Court Statistics" which is planned for release later this year.

Table 1: Small claim hearings by party representation in the county courts of England and Wales, 2007

	Number
No legal representative for claimant	
No legal representative for defendant	21,063
Legal representative for defendant	7,299
Legal representative for claimant	
No legal representative for defendant	13,876
Legal representative for defendant	10,988
Total	53,226

Notes:
1. There is considered to be a defendant representation if at least one defendant in a case is represented.
2. The breakdown by party representation is estimated and excludes data from a very small minority of courts.

Source:
HMCS CaseMan system.

Table 2: Number of complaints received by type in the county courts of England and Wales, 2005-06 to 2007-08

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Case trial management	2,274	3,192	4,970
Issue/commencement of proceedings	2,077	2,672	2,232
Enforcement	2,795	3,398	3,632
Facilities	1,019	1,316	1,149
Listing of case (listing/scheduling)	1,977	2,469	2,378
Judicial decision/conduct of case	1,730	1,292	1,243
Discrimination/diversity	119	129	114
Other administrative error	4,234	3,558	—
Feedback for other bodies	610	493	600
Staff	1,594	1,732	1,762
Total	18,429	20,251	18,080

Note:
The complaint categories are reviewed annually and it was decided that the "Other administrative error" category should be removed for 2007-08. This was because the other categories provided sufficient flexibility for complaints to be recorded under them.

Source:
HMCS, Customer Analysis and Feedback system.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Premises: Fines

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been collected from fines on void business lettings in each of the last three years. [210383]

John Healey: Central Government do not collect data on the amount of revenues raised from the unoccupied property rate. However, it is estimated that the recent changes to the empty property rate will reduce the costs of empty property rate relief by £950 million in 2008-09.

Empty Property: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of unoccupied domestic properties in *(a)* private and *(b)* local authority ownership in each London borough. [210273]

Mr. Iain Wright: The data given as follows provide the information requested:

Vacancies by tenure for London boroughs, 2007

	Total empty homes[1]	*LA*[2]	*Registered social landlord*[3]	*Other public sector*[3]	*Private sector*[4]
Barking and Dagenham	2,064	654	24	0	1,386
Barnet	3,319	94	58	192	2,975
Bexley	2,247	[5]—	135	0	2,112
Brent	2,734	258	247	14	2,215
Bromley	3,537	[5]—	329	0	3,208
Camden	2,726	418	116	0	2,192
City of London	122	2	3	41	76
Croydon	4,052	135	167	7	3,743
Ealing	3,406	316	167	15	2,908
Enfield	3,218	250	68	55	2,845
Greenwich	3,294	604	211	0	2,479
Hackney	3,646	1,051	283	0	2,312
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,300	235	146	21	1,898
Haringey	1,782	160	175	0	1,447
Harrow	1,123	38	100	33	952
Havering	2,854	345	42	0	2,467
Hillingdon	2,069	160	54	120	1,735
Hounslow	1,571	215	69	18	1,269
Islington	2,334	439	189	3	1,703
Kensington and Chelsea	3,232	56	138	21	3,017
Kingston upon Thames	2,199	44	29	0	2,126
Lambeth	3,475	847	254	12	2,362
Lewisham	1,924	592	272	0	1,060

Vacancies by tenure for London boroughs, 2007

	Total empty homes[1]	LA[2]	Registered social landlord[3]	Other public sector[2]	Private sector[4]
Merton	1,422	58	37	1	1,326
Newham	4,034	662	152	0	3,220
Redbridge	2,829	22	40	28	2,739
Richmond upon Thames	1,958	8	59	12	1,879
Southwark	2,520	1,293	270	0	957
Sutton	2,141	139	23	0	1,979
Tower Hamlets	2,223	271	341	2	1,609
Waltham Forest	2,383	103	184	—	2,096
Wandsworth	1,896	150	105	88	1,553
Westminster	3,962	227	164	103	3,468

[5] Not applicable since Bexley and Bromley have no local authority stock.

Sources:

[1] Council Tax Base 1 as reported by local authorities at October 2007.

[2] Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities at 1 April 2007.

[3] Regulatory Statistical Return as reported by Registered Social Landlords at 31 March

Residual i.e. CTB total less LA, RSL and other public sector .

Fire Prevention: Livestock Premises

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what penalties may be imposed upon those responsible for ensuring fire risk assessments are conducted on stables and other livestock premises for not fulfilling their duty. [210041]

Mr. Dhanda: The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 sets out the duties on the responsible person to carry out a fire risk assessment and put in place suitable and sufficient fire precautions. The extent to which a responsible person is considered to be complying adequately with the requirements of the legislation and managing the risk on their premises is a matter of judgment, based on the professional experience and expertise of the individual fire safety audit officer.

In the event of non-compliance, there are a range of measures that can be taken to improve fire safety on all premises covered by this legislation. The two main measures available to enforcing authorities (primarily fire and rescue authorities) are enforcement notices, which require changes to be made over a specified period of time; and prohibition notices, which effectively shut premises down until improvements are made.

In the event that a responsible person does not act to improve fire safety in response to an enforcement or prohibition notice from the Fire and Rescue Authority, or, in any event, if failure to comply with the requirements of the Order places persons at risk of death or serious injury in case of fire, they are liable to prosecution in the courts. The level of penalty to be applied as a consequence of prosecution is a matter for the courts, subject to a maximum of an unlimited fine and/or two years' imprisonment in the Crown court, or a fine of £5,000 in a magistrates court.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which districts have held emergency planning measures and resilience scenarios to prepare for future floods following the summer floods of 2007 and the recommendations of the Interim Pitt Review. [209439]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2005, the principal mechanism for multi-agency cooperation in preparing for emergencies has been the local resilience forum, based mainly on each police area rather than districts[1], and bringing together the emergency services and other category one and two responders as defined in the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act.

All local resilience forums are required under the Act to carry out assessments of the risks of emergencies in their areas. Many[2] local resilience forums have a collectively agreed multi-agency flood response plan; and nearly all of the main category one responders within them either contribute to these plans or take account of flooding incidents in their own emergency response plans. Most of the plans that exist had already been reviewed in the period following the summer flooding; and multi-agency plans are being further reviewed following the issue of new guidance from Government in February this year. The Government specifically wrote to all LRF chairs in February and again in May 2008 asking LRFs to let us know how the new guidance was being embedded at a local level. The replies we have had in to date give a clear indication that many LRFs have been very active since the floods last year. In particular, it seems evident that significant effort has gone into identifying the lessons of 2007 and improving local risk assessments, plans and their general state of preparedness (mostly through better activation procedures and clarity over roles and responsibilities).

[1] For example the North Yorkshire LRF area comprises seven district councils (Selby, Harrogate, Ryedale, Scarborough, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Craven) and the City of York. All seven district councils have some form of multi-agency flood response plan.

[2] According to the initial results of the 2008 national capability survey. A more comprehensive analysis is due to be undertaken shortly.

Floods: Housing

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were flooded in England in 2007, broken down by county; and in how many cases households remain unable to return to their homes. [210706]

John Healey: Water entered the habitable areas of the properties of approximately 48,000 households in the floods of June and July 2007. The breakdown by local authority, grouped by region and local authority where applicable is as follows:

Local authority	*Region*	*Total households affected*
Amber Valley	East Midlands	26
Bolsover	East Midlands	22
Chesterfield	East Midlands	500
Derby	East Midlands	19
Derbyshire Dales	East Midlands	230
Erewash	East Midlands	29
High Peak	East Midlands	26
North East Derbyshire	East Midlands	69
South Derbyshire	East Midlands	7
Blaby	East Midlands	6
Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	6
Leicester	East Midlands	1
Melton	East Midlands	18
North West Leicestershire	East Midlands	1
Boston	East Midlands	158
East Lindsey	East Midlands	1,112
Lincoln	East Midlands	35
West Lindsey	East Midlands	280
Daventry	East Midlands	3
Kettering	East Midlands	4
Northampton	East Midlands	3
South Northamptonshire	East Midlands	50
Ashfield	East Midlands	61
Bassetlaw	East Midlands	810
Broxtowe	East Midlands	6
Gedling	East Midlands	53
Mansfield	East Midlands	20
Newark and Sherwood	East Midlands	475
Nottingham	East Midlands	14
North Norfolk District	Eastern	3
Bexley	London	30
Brent	London	25
Croydon	London	250
Hammersmith and Fulham	London	147
Harrow	London	10
Havering	London	4
Kensington and Chelsea	London	307
Kingston upon Thames	London	50
Merton	London	30
Richmond upon Thames	London	100
Sutton	London	250
Wandsworth	London	60
Chester-le-Street	North East	200
Derwentside	North East	30
Easington	North East	7
Teesdale	North East	4
Wear Valley	North East	2
Tynedale	North East	20
Darlington	North East	85
Redcar and Cleveland	North East	15
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	12
North Tyneside	North East	70
Pendle District	North West	16
Reading	South East	135
Slough	South East	30
West Berkshire	South East	2,510
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	120
Wokingham	South East	141
Aylesbury Vale	South East	43
Milton Keynes	South East	8
Wealden	South East	30
Basingstoke and Deane	South East	10
Rushmoor	South East	7
Cherwell	South East	66
Oxford	South East	190
South Oxfordshire	South East	3
Vale of White Horse	South East	1,015
West Oxfordshire	South East	1,631
Surrey Heath	South East	35
Woking	South East	14
South Hams	South West	0
Torridge	South West	2
North Dorset	South West	20
Cheltenham	South West	765
Cotswold	South West	950
Forest of Dean	South West	90
Gloucester	South West	903
South Gloucestershire	South West	8
Stroud	South West	150
Tewkesbury	South West	1,859
Mendip	South West	2
North Somerset	South West	77
South Somerset	South West	1
West Somerset	South West	1
Kennet	South West	2
North Wiltshire	South West	0
Swindon	South West	65
Herefordshire	West Midlands	228
Bridgnorth	West Midlands	155
Shrewsbury and Atcham	West Midlands	3
South Shropshire	West Midlands	264
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands	62

Local authority	*Region*	*Total households affected*
East Staffordshire	West Midlands	1
Lichfield	West Midlands	138
Newcastle-under-Lyme	West Midlands	50
South Staffordshire	West Midlands	2
Stafford District	West Midlands	21
North Warwickshire	West Midlands	78
Nuneaton	West Midlands	9
Rugby	West Midlands	88
Stratford-on-Avon	West Midlands	1,500
Warwick	West Midlands	214
Birmingham	West Midlands	277
Dudley	West Midlands	106
Sandwell	West Midlands	35
Solihull	West Midlands	158
Bromsgrove	West Midlands	89
Malvera Hills	West Midlands	820
Redditch	West Midlands	73
Worcester	West Midlands	179
Wychavon	West Midlands	1,579
Wyre Forest	West Midlands	1,228
City of Kingston upon Hull	Yorkshire and the Humber	8,657
East Riding	Yorkshire and the Humber	6,079
North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	469
North Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	436
Hambleton	Yorkshire and the Humber	5
Harrogate	Yorkshire and the Humber	100
Richmondshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	72
Ryedale	Yorkshire and the Humber	49
Scarborough	Yorkshire and the Humber	115
Selby	Yorkshire and the Humber	137
Barnsley	Yorkshire and the Humber	666
Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	3,037
Rotherham	Yorkshire and the Humber	428
Sheffield	Yorkshire and the Humber	1,276
Bradford	Yorkshire and the Humber	16
Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber	252
Leeds	Yorkshire and the Humber	250
Wakefield	Yorkshire and the Humber	1,737
Total		47,792

As at 30 April 2008, we estimate that approximately 5,650 households remain wholly or partially displaced from their homes.

Homelessness

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of homelessness was in each region, in each of the last 10 years. [208862]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. The Department does not hold statistics for the devolved Administrations.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

National and regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation over the last 10 years are published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, in Tables 3 and 7. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008 and contains data from 1997 to 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/715137

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, nationally and by local authority, and are available up to 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/publicationsabouthomelessness/roughsleepingstatistics/

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded on the number of homeless people who had been in care. [208996]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department collects and publishes information on the number of care leavers annually. In 2006-07 (the most recent year for which we have data), 8,000 children aged 16 or over ceased care. More information is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml.

The Department has commissioned the following studies on care leavers:

"Transitional Support for Care Leavers: An Evaluation of Costs and Outcomes" (Jo Dixon, Jim Wade, Sarah Byford, Helen Weatherly and Jenny Lee, University of York), summary at:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/7%20Care%20Leavers%20summary.pdf.

This study formed part of the Costs and Outcomes research series, and further information on the studies can be found at:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/RS00026/

"Using Health, Education, Housing and Other Services: A Study of Care Leavers and Young People in Difficulty" (Claire Cameron et al, Thomas Coram Research Unit), summary at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u015171/index.shtml.

"Young People's Transitions from Care to Adulthood" (Mike Stein and Emily Munro; Jessica Kingsley 2008), see

http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843106104

The Department has also supported the following study:

"Going to University from Care" (Thomas Coram Research Unit in partnership with the Buttle Trust), at

http://www.buttletrust.org/docs/gtu.pdf.

Housing: Construction

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (a) private, (b) socially rented and (c) shared ownership homes she estimates will be built in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [210686]

Caroline Flint: The Government do not publish forecasts for private house building.

In 2006-07 199,200 additional homes were delivered. Housing starts in 2007-08 were 10 per cent. lower than in 2006-07 and this is likely to be reflected in lower levels of housing completions during 2008-09.

The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191), published in July 2007, announced an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11, to be delivered mainly through the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme. Of these, 45,000 homes will be for social rent, an increase of 50 per cent. on 2007-08, with a goal to go further to 50,000 new homes for social rent in the next spending review period.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect of the economic situation, with particular reference to the availability of credit on levels on house building. [210687]

Caroline Flint: The Government do not publish forecasts for private house building.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many school enterprises have been awarded contracts under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme to date. [209966]

John Healey: None. The Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme is not a scheme for the award of contracts. It is designed to give local authorities an incentive to encourage local business growth, which it does by paying a non-ringfenced grant to authorities where business growth exceeds a certain level, as measured by changes in the business rateable value base.

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates of population her Department uses when calculating the revenue support grant for each local authority. [210414]

John Healey: I announced the 2008-09 and provisional 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlements on 24 January 2008 as part of the first ever three year settlement for local government. The main measures of population used in the calculation of Formula Grant are from the 2004-based sub-national population projections that were published by the Office for National Statistics on 27 September 2007. Projections for 2008, 2009 and 2010 have been used in respective settlement calculations.

The mid-2006 population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics on 22 August 2007 have also been used within the calculation of other indicators used in the Relative Needs Formulae.

In all cases, we have used the best data available on a consistent basis for all authorities and available at the time of calculating the allocations.

The full details of the indicators used for 2008-09 are shown in the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2008-09 (HC262) approved by the House on 4 February 2008.

Local Government Finance: East of England

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to each local authority in the east of England under the Growth Fund Awards for 2008-09; what factors were taken into account in determining these sums; and if she will make a statement. [208583]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of Growth Fund allocations made to all eligible local authorities or partnerships of local authorities for 2008-09 have been deposited in the Library of the House.

All local authorities or partnerships eligible for funding were invited to bid through the submission of a programme of development during the summer of 2007. Programmes of development are documents that set out local areas' plans and ambitions for growth, including a trajectory for housing delivery and the infrastructure needed to support it, funding already identified and the extra support needed to deliver.

Funding decisions were based around the assessment of their programmes of development against the key criteria set out in the guidance, with key emphasis on the number of homes to be delivered to 2016 and the scale of the key infrastructure challenges at the location.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has received from the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1994. [210413]

Mr. Dhanda: We are not aware of any funding coming in to the Department from the National Lottery Distribution Fund.

Planning Permission: Geology

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to encourage local authorities to hold discussions with outside bodies on the designation of areas of known geological interest in areas affected by planning applications. [210040]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under provisions of Article 10 of the Town and Planning (Development Procedure) Order 1995, local planning authorities have a duty to consult Natural England before granting planning permission for any development that is in or likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest, including those designated for their geological importance.

More generally, Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation which sets out the Government's policies on the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system advises that regional planning bodies should liaise with the British Geological Survey and, where appropriate, local Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites groups when preparing Regional Spatial Strategies.

The Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 293) require local planning authorities to give statutory consultees, non-Government organisations and other public groups, who may have an interest, the opportunity to make representations about proposed developments which are likely to have significant environmental effects. This could include effects on areas of geological interest.

Regional Planning and Development: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the Canvey Seafront improvements scheme; when the scheme will be concluded; what the cost of the scheme is estimated to be; and what the sources of funding for the scheme are. [203634]

Caroline Flint: The Canvey Seafront improvements scheme is a package of measures to enhance the quality of the public realm along the sea front of Canvey Island. Along with master planning other measures include the construction of public toilets, a bandstand, cycle stands, improvements to a children's paddling pool area and seating. The funding source is the Thames Gateway Programme and CLG allocated £1.5 million to the East of England Development Agency to carry out the project. The scheme is due to be completed by end of May 2008.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the cost of the production of a Canvey town centre master plan will be met by her Department; what the terms of reference for the production of the plan are; and if she will make a statement. [203641]

Caroline Flint: Castle Point borough council has been given an indicative allocation of £2.3 million capital funding from the CLG Thames Gateway programme to take forward the regeneration of Castle Point. The borough council has earmarked around £750,000 for projects in the Canvey Island town centre. Of this CLG funding, £50,000 will be spent on masterplanning the town centre, to match a similar sum the council is seeking from other sources. It will then be for the borough council to draw up terms of reference for the master plan work. All projects will be required to undergo full appraisal.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the funding allocated by her Department for the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership is planned to be spent on. [203643]

Caroline Flint: Through the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, published in November 2007, CLG has allocated an indicative amount of £2,300,000 capital funding to Castle Point borough council to take forward the regeneration of Castle Point. Projects will focus on the Hadleigh and Canvey Island town centres and improvements to the Charfleets Industrial Estate, and will be required to undergo full appraisal. These projects are contained in the draft regeneration framework, which was prepared by the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Castle Point borough council on gap funding for the Canvey Seafront improvements scheme; and if she will make a statement. [204597]

Caroline Flint: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government received an expression of interest from Castle Point borough council in July 2007 for additional funding of £582,000 for the Canvey Seafront improvements scheme as part of the process of drawing up the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan for 2008-11. This was additional to a number of other expressions of interest they made for other projects. Following an evaluation of the submissions received for projects across the Gateway, an indicative allocation of £2,300,000 was made to Castle Point borough council for projects in support of the regeneration of the borough's town centres and industrial estates.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects were completed in Castle Point constituency by the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership in each of the last five years; and what funding was provided for the Thames Gateway in each of those years. [203710]

Caroline Flint: Two CLG funded projects have been completed in the last five years in Castle Point. These are the Canvey Seafront improvements scheme and the Canvey Wick Biodiversity Reserve. EEDA have delivered the Canvey Seafront improvements scheme and spent £390,000 in 2005-06, £106,446 in 2006-07 and £652,990 in 2007-08. The Land Restoration Trust spent £35,000 on the Canvey Wick Biodiversity Reserve project.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions Gypsy and Traveller camps have been found by courts to have breached planning regulations in each of the last three years. [210622]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on *(a)* the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and *(b)* the refurbishment of existing Gypsy and Traveller sites in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in each year between 2008 and 2012. [210623]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government provides Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller sites and the refurbishment of existing sites in England. £33 million is available for the Grant in 2008-09, £32 million in 2009-10, and £32 million in 2010-11, of which £2 million in each year has been allocated to the north west. The bidding round for 2008-09 closes on 31 July.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy and Traveller camps there were in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [210625]

Mr. Iain Wright: A bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans is undertaken by local authorities and published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Although the count lists authorised public sites it does not list authorised private sites or unauthorised sites.

The following table sets out the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans counted in the last three years in both Lancashire and England.

	Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans	
	Lancashire	*England*
2005		
January	223	15,369
July	216	15,863
2006		
January	262	15,746
July	220	16,367
2007		
January	282	16,611
July	261	17,134

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants were made by her Department to Westminster City Council in each of the last three years; for how much in each case; what grants will be given in 2008-09; and for how much in each case. [210008]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows by year and by grant programme, funds which have been made available to Westminster city council by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors.

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 (plan)*	*Total*
Revenue Support Grant[1]	163.6	25.9	24.0	21.5	235.0
National Non Domestic Rates	74.0	134.2	142.9	154.3	505.4
Supporting People	17.6	17.3	17.3	17.3	69.5
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy	14.6	13.4	10.3	13.8	52.1
Homelessness (inc Overcrowding)	6.7	6.6	7.1	6.7	27.1
Hostel capital Improvement	5.1	0.5	0.5		6.1
Capacity Building	4.6	3.3	3.3		11.2
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme[2]	3.8	12.2			16.0
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	1.5	3.1			4.6
Housing Planning Delivery Grant	0.8	0.7	0.5		2.0
Local Government On-line	0.9	1.0	3.3		5.2
Disabled Facilities Grants	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.8
Performance Reward Grants	0.4	2.6	2.1		5.1
Civil Resilience (temporary mortuary costs)	0.3	5.0			5.3
Invest to Save—Special Grant	0.2	0.1			0.3
Local Area Agreements[3]		1.1	10.1		11.2
Area Based Grants[3]				15.6	15.6
Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund				0.1	0.1
Total	294.5	227.4	221.9	229.8	973.5

[1] From 2006-07 Revenue Support Grants were reduced due to the transfer of funding to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for Dedicated School Grant

[2] On Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme, the figures provided for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are payments to date in relation to those years.

[3] From 2008-09, the Area Based Grant (ABG) is replacing the old Local Area Agreements programme.

Wind Power: Planning

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on planning: wind power, what account she takes of the effects of planning advice in Scotland in formulating planning guidance for England on the siting of wind turbines; and if she will make a statement. [209616]

Mr. Iain Wright: Experience from outside England, including from Scotland, can help inform the preparation of planning guidance. The relevance and applicability to England of this wider experience will depend on a number of factors. These include geography and the similarities, or differences, in how the planning system concerned takes account of the location and landscape setting of proposed development and provides for proposals to be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Zero Carbon Delivery Unit

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the zero carbon delivery unit announced in the 2008 Budget will be established; and what funding has been allocated to it. [208259]

Caroline Flint: The 2016 task force is meeting on 5 June to discuss the detailed arrangements for establishing the zero carbon delivery unit announced in the Budget. The Government have agreed to provide pump priming funding on a match funding basis, the level of which will be dependent on the detailed business plan for the unit.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Learning Grant

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on the adult learning grant in each year since 2005; and how much he expects his Department to spend on the adult learning grant in each of the next three years. [210439]

Mr. Lammy: The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) has been available throughout England since September 2007 and in its pilot phase (from 2003). The following table details the amounts which the Department has spent on ALG in the last three financial years:

	£ million
2005-06	7
2006-07	10.7
2007-08	17.5

The Department has a budget of £32 million for ALG for each of the next three financial years (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11), which will be allocated in line with applications from adults supported by ongoing marketing of the scheme.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been allocated from public funds for research into the biomedical causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis/encephalopathy in 2008-09; what proportion of Government spending on research into the condition this sum represents; how much has been allocated for research into psychological conditions in 2008-09; and how many clinical co-ordinating centres serving patients with psychological disorders have *(a)* closed and *(b)* had a reduction in public funding since 2003. [209991]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) is a strategic priority area for the MRC and the Council is continuing to promote research in this area. The MRC does not have set budgets for specific illnesses and research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The MRC welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

The MRC currently supports a number of studies in CFS/ME, as follows:

Professor K. Bhui, Queen Mary and Westfield College: Chronic fatigue and ethnicity (£162,000)

Dr. C. Clark, Centre for Psychiatry, Barts and the London School of Medicine: General and specific risk markers and preventive factors for chronic fatigue and irritable bowel syndromes (funding approved in November 2007 £367,000)

Professor A. J. Weardon et al, University of Manchester: Randomised controlled trial of nurse-led self-help treatment for primary care patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (£743,000)

Professor P. D. White et al, Queen Mary and Westfield College: The PACE Trial: A RCT of CBT, graded exercise, adaptive pacing and usual medical care for the chronic fatigue syndrome (£2.07 million)

The Department of Health does not allocate funding specifically for psychological centres. Primary care trusts (PCTs) have the responsibility for providing funding for health and social care services to meet the needs of their local population from their general funding allocation. Information on the number of psychological centres is not collected centrally.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will provide a breakdown of the amount and proportion of his Department's budget which is not devolved to non-departmental public bodies by main budget heading. [207552]

Mr. Lammy: The proportion of the Department's net budget (including planned receipts) that is not devolved to non-departmental public bodies is -£4.47 billion which is -25.02 per cent. of the overall Department voted supply estimate for 2007-08 of £17.9 billion.

This includes a receipt from DCSF of £7.165 billion. If this figure is excluded from the calculation, £2.69 billion is spent centrally, which is 15.03 per cent. of the overall Department voted estimate for 2007-08 of £17.9 billion. A full breakdown of the budget headings that comprise figure can be found in the DIUS Spring Supplementary Estimate published March 2008:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./documents/public_spending_reporting/estimates/psr_estimates_main08-09.cfm.

Please note that these are budgeted figures not the final out-turn which is yet to be finalised for the year-end accounts.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 394W, on departmental public participation, what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned as a result of the findings of each (i) survey, (ii) questionnaire and (iii) other service carried out in 2007-08. [208927]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information is as follows.

HSE student support England 2007-08:

The annual Student Finance Customer Satisfaction Survey measures satisfaction with the end to end process of applying for financial help for those going into higher education, and provides year on year comparisons of the service. The aim of the research is to test customer views of the level and quality of service they have received, rather than their views on the Government's student support policy.

Feedback from the survey influences the future development of student finance services, including provision of information and operational processes involved in applying for student support. The results of each year's survey are made public and published via the DIUS website (previously via the DFES website).

All other student finance research:

The research on student finance was carried out to help define and articulate messages on student finance for parents. In 2007 the Government introduced a greatly enhanced package of financial help for people going into higher education. We have a duty to make the public aware of these rights and entitlements. We therefore needed the messages to resonate with the parent audience so that the information could be conveyed in the most engaging way possible so that informed choices and decisions can be made.

These messages were then used whenever promotional or PR activity was used to communicate student finance messages to parents.

As a result of using the most engaging messages to ensure the information was conveyed to our audience the following key success indicators were achieved.

80 per cent. of parents now believe that there is financial support available to students.

There has been a significant shift (from 21 per cent. to 36 per cent.) in prompted awareness among students that they can still get a grant if their parents earn up to £60,000.

Awareness of the increased threshold among parents increased to 40 per cent. during the promotional and PR activity of the enhanced student finance package.

General awareness of grants among parents has steadily increased since 2006, up from 21 per cent. to 43 per cent.

Finance is seen as an important influence for nearly two-thirds of parents.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209432]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was formed as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department's people information is maintained on the HR management systems of the two Departments from which staff were transferred, namely BERR and DCSF. Neither of these Departments hold information on vocational training in the form requested centrally and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of students undertaking medical education with a view to qualification as a doctor under the Widening Participation Scheme who are from *(a)* white British and *(b)* black Caribbean backgrounds in the most recent period for which figures are available. [207688]

Bill Rammell: Ethnicity figures for all medical students in England are shown in table 1. Several medical schools run schemes to encourage applications from bright students from disadvantaged or non-traditional backgrounds. Data on admissions through these schemes are not collected centrally, but a recent article in the *British Medical Journal* highlighted the success of the Extended Medical Degree Programme run by King's College London. Ethnicity figures for students on this programme are shown in table 2.

Table 1: UK domiciled medical[1] enrolments by ethnicity—English higher education institutions—2006/07 academic year

Ethnicity	*Number*	*Proportion[2] (percentage)*
White—British	21,785	61.3
Black or black British—Caribbean	180	0.5
Black or black British—African	955	2.7
Other ethnicities	12,595	35.5
Total with known ethnicity	35,515	100.0
Information refused	1,315	3.5
Not known/missing	1,055	2.8
Total	37,880	100.0

[1] Medical includes students enrolled on the principal subjects Pre-Clinical Medicine and Clinical Medicine only.

[2] Ethnicity proportions are calculated using the total with known ethnicity. Information refused and not known/missing proportions are calculated using the overall total.

Note:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Table 2: Ethnic origin of King's College London EMDP students 2002-06

	Percentage
White British	7
Black African	35
Black Caribbean	1

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210458]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, and that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for World Class Skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life. We will continue to work closely with our ministerial colleagues to respond to the consultation on the Equality Bill—"A Framework for Fairness"—to ensure that everyone, in every community, can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in work, education and society as a whole.

Protection from discrimination on the grounds of age was introduced in the area of employment and vocational training through the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. The Regulations mean that further education and training providers are not allowed to set age limits for access to training unless they can show objective justification why there is a real need to apply such limits. The Government have decided that all courses at Further Education and Higher Education institutions are covered by the age regulations, whether they are specifically vocational or more general in nature. This ensures that there is a unified and consistent approach to age-related practices and policies in relation to all such provision.

I must stress that the Regulations do not bar providers from offering age-related fee discounts. Many colleges and other providers have longstanding, formal, informal and discretionary arrangements based on age when deciding eligibility for fee concessions. These are entirely at the discretion and cost of individual providers. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement by my hon. Friend the Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, which said:

> "Guidance on the vocational training aspects of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations is available on the DTI website. It is aimed at, amongst others, providers of further and adult education. The guidance makes it clear that age related practices, such as age related fee concessions, may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. It is for providers to produce evidence of such objective justification if called upon to do so, or to take their own legal advice if necessary. Guidance on objective justification is also available on page 30 of the ACAS guidance on the Age Regulations." [*Official Report*, 16 May 2007, col. 35WS.]

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in England were accepted by a university in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07, broken down by (i) age band, (ii) sex and (iii) county of residence. [208856]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The latest available information, showing the number of full-time undergraduate entrants by their local authority of domicile is given in tables, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plans to take to increase numbers of young people going to university. [210394]

Bill Rammell: Our January 2008 grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England provided sufficient funding for recruitment by 2011 of 60,000 new students. This increase builds on our consistent track record of growing student numbers to record levels. But we are not simply concerned with recruiting younger students. Our development of new models for the funding and design of higher education (HE) courses will also enable us to grow the number of mature students entering HE part-time.

As part of this strategy for growth, we have asked the Funding Council over the next six years to support 20 new HE centres with around 10,000 student places, under our new University Challenge initiative. This will allow more students to gain access to HE locally. We are also committed to a steep increase in the number of people studying for foundation degrees. Our ambition to provide 100,000 foundation degree enrolments by 2010 will support young people and adults in employment to develop higher level work-related skills.

We believe that there will be demand for the new places we are creating. Improvements to the student support package for full-time students in England announced last July will further encourage more young people to go to university. For young people, we know that the best way to increase participation in HE is to raise level 2 achievement in schools at age 16 with an increase in young people attaining five GCSEs at grades A* to C to 62 per cent. from 37 per cent. in 1997. New study options for young people at age 14, the Aimhigher Programme and HE institutions' own outreach activity working directly with schools all help to raise aspirations and achievement across the board.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* state school and *(b)* private school students in (i) the UK, (ii) Leeds Metropolitan District and (iii) Leeds, West constituency were admitted to higher education in each year since 1997. [211177]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to answer the question as it is posed. However, the following information is what is currently available.

The proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses in the UK, who had previously attended a state school or college is shown in table 1. All schools or colleges that are not denoted 'independent' are assumed to be state schools. This means that students from sixth form or further education colleges, for example, are included as being from state schools. Information specifically on the percentage of private school students admitted to higher education is not available.

Table 1: Proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses, who had previously attended a state school or college, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Percentage
1997/98	81.8
1998/99	85.0
1999/2000	84.9
2000/01	85.7
2001/02	86.0
2002/03	87.2
2003/04	86.8
2004/05	86.7

Table 1: Proportion of young entrants to full-time first degree courses, who had previously attended a state school or college, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Percentage
2005/06	87.4
2006/07	87.8

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

HEFCE's "Young participation in Higher Education" publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000 and is not available by school type. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/polar

The proportion of young people from Leeds, West constituency and from England, who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 is shown in table 2. Figures are shown under the year in which the cohort turned 18. Figures for Leeds metropolitan district are not available.

Table 2: Proportion of young people who entered higher education at age 18 or 19

	Leeds, West constituency entering HE aged 18 or 19	Percentage England entering HE aged 18 or 19
1997	13	29
1998	14	29
1999	14	29
2000	13	30

Higher Education: Medicine

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students entering medical education for training leading to qualification as a doctor were from an ethnic minority background in each of the last five years; and what proportion of students entered medical education leading to qualification as a doctor under the extended medical degree programme and other widening participation schemes in each of the last five years. [207711]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 12 June in response to his question PQ 207688.

Table 1 shows the ethnicity of entrants to medical courses over the last five years.

Table 1: UK Domiciled medical[1] entrants by ethnicity—English higher education institutions, academic years 2002-03 to 2006-07

Academic year	White background		Ethnic minority background		Total with known ethnicity	
	Number	[2]Proportion %	Number	[2]Proportion %	Number	[2]Proportion %
2002-03	5,030	69.2	2,235	30.8	7,265	100.0
2003-04	5,555	69.8	2,405	30.2	7,960	100.0
2004-05	5,790	69.0	2,605	31.0	8,395	100.0
2005-06	5,945	67.8	2,830	32.2	8,775	100.0
2006-07	6,095	67.5	2,940	32.5	9,040	100.0

Academic year	Information refused		Not known/missing		Total	
	Number	[2]Proportion %	Number	[2]Proportion %	Number	[2]Proportion %
2002-03	685	8.2	370	4.4	8,320	100.0
2003-04	605	6.7	450	5.0	9,075	100.0
2004-05	400	4.4	435	4.7	9,230	100.0
2005-06	465	4.9	345	3.6	9,590	100.0
2006-07	465	4.8	230	2.3	9,730	100.0

[1] Medical includes students enrolled on the principal subjects Pre-Clinical Medicine and Clinical Medicine only.

[2] Ethnicity proportions are calculated using the total with known ethnicity. Information refused and not known/missing proportions are calculated using the overall total.

Notes:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Science: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to increase skills levels in science and engineering industries. [208857]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The Government are committed both to increasing the number of people studying science, technology, engineering and maths at all levels, and to working with the science and engineering industries to improve skill levels in those industries. My Department works closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and funds STEMNET—the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network—to raise awareness of these subjects and engagement among young people. This includes support for the science and engineering ambassadors scheme which has already enabled over 18,000 specialists to work directly with schools and colleges, offering mentoring, career guidance and positive role models. We recently announced that STEMNET would work towards having 27,000 ambassadors in place by 2011.

On 28 May the Secretary of State announced the first Train to Gain sector compact. This is a partnership between Semta (the Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies), the Learning and Skills Council and my Department to drive up employer demand for skills in the science and engineering industries over the next three years. £65 million has been earmarked from the Train to Gain budget for this compact.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is providing £75 million additional funding from 2007/08 over three years for high cost strategic science subjects at undergraduate level, including chemistry, physics and chemical engineering.

HEFCE are also funding the National Engineering Programme (NEP), of which the London Engineering project is the first phase. After creating a successful working model with the London pilot project, the programme will extend to six other cities in England. Managed by the Royal Academy of Engineering, the programme aims to change the face of UK higher education in engineering, by widening participation and strengthening engineering as a strategic subject.

Together with DCSF we have put in place a structure—a High Level STEM strategy group—reporting both to DCSF and DIUS Ministers. This will ensure, across all phases of education, a joined-up approach to initiatives designed to support improvements in the teaching of science as well as those aimed at encouraging young people to take science subjects.

Sixth Form Colleges: Governing Bodies

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has issued guidance on whether the chair of the corporation of a sixth form college may also be a governor of the college. [210357]

Bill Rammell: The Instrument and Articles of Government for Further Education Corporations, which provide for the constitution and conduct of all colleges, require the members of the Corporation to appoint a Chair from within the governing body (section 6 of the Instrument refers). An individual may be a governor at more than one college. However, the Instrument and Articles of Government require every member of the governing body to act in the best interests of the Corporation.

Teachers: Sign Language

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will provide funding for models for the training of British Sign Language teaching in addition to Lifelong Learning UK courses. [208128]

Bill Rammell: The Department has no current plans to fund development of British Sign Language (BSL) training. There are existing Higher Education Funding Council for England and Learning and Skills Council public funding streams, through which providers can apply for funds for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses.

Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) has developed a qualifications framework and guidance for the sector workforce, but course design is the responsibility of the awarding institution or sometimes the delivery centre. Importantly, providers of teacher training for the FE sector are independent organisations with the freedom and ability to develop courses which they feel meet sector business needs, including teacher training courses contextualised for BSL.

LLUK requirements do not prevent ITT course providers from meeting the needs of BSL teacher trainees. There are many examples of contextualised ITT courses for particular groups of trainees, such as performing arts or lip reading.

Vocational Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many national vocational qualifications were studied for outside an apprenticeship framework in each year since 2000. [209453]

Mr. Lammy: Such information as is available is included in the following table, which shows the total number of LSC funded learners who studied for NVQs outside apprenticeships frameworks in post-16 education from 2002/03 to 2006/07. Figures for other years are not available.

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Further Education	318,840	323,910	329,340	343,450	344,190
Work Based Learning (NVQ training only)	84,460	54,100	30,070	11,870	4,290
Adult Safeguarded Learning	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	40
Train to Gain	[1]	[1]	[1]	26,750	166,010
Total	403,290	378,010	359,410	382,170	514,530

n/a = Not available

[1] Not applicable

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Figures represent the total volume of NVQ learners in an academic year A single episode of learning may be counted in more than one year.

3. Train to Gain started in 2005/06, with full rollout in 2006/07. Due to data limitations for 2005/06 this figure has been estimated using the ratio of NVQs to total learners in 2006/07 (approximately 98 per cent.).

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to prevent future skills shortages. [210393]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have taken a wide range of action to support employers in securing the skills their businesses need to thrive both now and in the future. Our White Paper 'World Class Skills' was published last summer. It set out how we will shape the skills system around the needs of customers—employers and learners—to meet the challenge of competing in the global economy. Since then we have pressed ahead with making the skills system more demand led. This includes improving and expanding Train to Gain to help employers identify and address their skills needs. Since national roll-out began from April 2006, Train to Gain has engaged nearly 90,000 employers, enabled over 450,000 employees to begin learning programmes, and over 210,000 to gain new qualifications. We are working with Sector Skills Councils to develop sector compacts, earmarking Train to Gain funds specifically to support the skills those sectors need. Funding for the Apprenticeship programme is being increased, and the programme reformed, so that more employers and employees benefit from high-quality work-based training. National Skills Academies have now been approved in nine sectors.

On higher skills, our recent consultation paper 'Higher Education at Work' has launched a national debate on what more needs to be done to meet the need for more—and more employable—graduates, and raise the skills of those already in the work force.

A key aim in taking all these actions is that employers and the skills system get better at responding to future strategic challenges and opportunities—such as a low carbon economy, renewable energy, and the Olympics—focussing on the medium and long term as well as on immediate skills needs.

Over the next three years we will be investing £2.3 billion on the modernisation and renewal of the Further Education estate, supporting investment in specialist new facilities in colleges and training providers, to build the capacity needed to meet our skills priorities.

We are also taking action to make sure the employment and skills system is much better joined up. In April the new UK Commission for Employment and Skills started work. We are publishing today new proposals for more integrated employment and skills services that are more responsive to the needs of individuals and employers, with plans to ensure that delivery systems work more closely together, driven by those who know best how to shape services to meet local needs.

Vocational Training: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much is planned to be spent on Train to Gain in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and how much has been allocated to *(a)* skills brokers, *(b)* wage compensation, *(c)* adult basic skills, *(d)* adult first full Level 2 and adult second full Level 2, *(e)* adult first non-Level 2 and adult second non-Level 2, *(f)* adult first full Level 3 and adult second full Level 3, *(g)* adult first non-Level 3 and adult second non-Level 3 and *(h)* higher education Level 4 provision in each year; [209789]

(2) how much was spent within Train to Gain on *(a)* private employers, *(b)* public employers, in each sector and *(c)* voluntary employers in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [209790]

(3) how much is expected to be spent within Train to Gain on *(a)* 16 to 19 year olds and *(b)* people aged 19 years and older from 2007-08 to 2010-11; [209791]

(4) how much is expected to be spent within Train to Gain on *(a)* volunteers, *(b)* the self-employed, *(c)* employees, *(d)* full-time employees and *(e)* part-time employees in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [209792]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was rolled out nationally from April 2006, Train to Gain has grown quickly. It has now engaged over 92,000 employers, supported nearly 455,000 employees to begin learning programmes, and delivered 186,720 full level 2 and 23,480 Skills for Life achievements. Recent evaluations of the service show that both employer and employee satisfaction with their experience of Train to Gain is high.

Since January 2008 both volunteers and the self-employed have been able to access high quality vocational skills training through Train to Gain. In a demand-led service like Train to Gain, the distribution of learners between different sectors, types of employees, volunteers, and the self-employed is driven by employer demand for and take up of the service. Recently completed evaluations show that a wide spread of industry sectors are accessing the service. We will continue to monitor that distribution through ongoing evaluation.

Government are investing more than £26 billion for 16 to 19-year-olds to participate in learning over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11. The Train to Gain service funds training for people aged 19 years and above. A breakdown of planned Train to Gain spend, by level, for the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 is set out in table 1. A breakdown of actual spend for 2007-08 will be available shortly, and I would be happy to share that with the hon. Member.

Table 1: Planned Train to Gain spend, 2007-08 to 2010-11

£ million

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Skills for Life	31	35	40	45
Full level 2	447	526	620	640
Full level 3	40	94	117	338
Developmental learning	2	1	0	0
Total	520	656	777	1,023

We have not to date funded 'second' level 2 or 3 qualifications within Train to Gain. As we agree new 'compacts' to ensure that the Train to Gain offer meets the particular needs of each key sector in the economy, we will identify those qualifications that are priorities for each sector, and offer some increased flexibility on funding for those qualifications.

Skills brokers work with employers to consider their skills needs at all levels, including level 4 and above where appropriate. We are currently working with the higher education sector to test how best we can offer an all-levels service through Train to Gain, through for example, the Higher Level Skills Pathfinders operating in three regions (NW, NE and SW).

Wage compensation will continue to be available over the period to 2010-11 for SMEs with fewer than 50 employees. Spend will be determined by employer take-up.

From April 2009, the Train to Gain brokerage offer will be integrated with the wider business support available through Business Link, and DIUS currently expects to invest £37 million in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support delivery of that service.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the 2007 Abortion Statistics will be published; if he will place copies in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* the Library; and if he will make a statement. [209094]

Dawn Primarolo: The 'Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2007' will be published on 19 June 2008. Copies will be placed in the Library and will be made available in the Vote Office.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the statements made by the Minister for Public Health on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 246, that a reduction in the current limit for abortion would *(a)* force women to give birth to unwanted children and *(b)* lead to women travelling abroad and seeking abortions elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [209105]

Dawn Primarolo: Every Member of the House spoke and voted in accordance with their conscious. It is a matter for each Member to decide the case they wished to advance.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many discharges there were from hospitals after septic abortions in each year since 1990. [209113]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Sepsis as a complication of abortion, up to time of discharge from place of termination, residents England and Wales, 1990 to 2006

	Sepsis up to time of discharge	*Total complications up to time of discharge*
1990	48	671
1991	63	656
1992	55	727
1993	44	649
1994	77	738
1995	66	659
1996	57	515
1997	62	490
1998	34	382
1999	35	420
2000	62	454
2001	65	373
2002	51	473
2003	15	503
2004	11	384
2005	14	319
2006	21	368

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the number of children who were born alive following an attempted abortion; when his Department last undertook a review of the number of children who were born alive following an attempted abortion that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [209117]

Dawn Primarolo: The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) collects data on all perinatal deaths (which includes the extremely small number of cases following abortion) and conducts confidential inquiries and other in-depth analyses of defined subsets. From this, CEMACH identifies key findings and makes recommendations as appropriate. As there is ongoing monitoring in this area, the Department has no plans to commission any further work.

The British Medical Association, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) have all issued guidance to clinicians on this sensitive issue. Ultimately, the management of these cases rests with the clinical team involved, taking into account all the relevant factors and circumstances. BAPM [illegible] currently updating its guidance on this issue.

Avian Influenza

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the likelihood of a global pandemic of avian influenza; and if he will make a statement; [209171]

(2) what contingency plans his Department has to deal with a pandemic of avian influenza; [209172]

(3) what work his Department is undertaking *(a)* with EU partners and *(b)* through the World Health Organisation to tackle the problem of avian influenza and H5N1. [209173]

Dawn Primarolo: There were three influenza pandemics in the last century. It is highly likely that another influenza pandemic will occur at some time, although it is impossible to forecast its exact timing or the precise nature of its impact.

In order to ensure the United Kingdom is as prepared as possible, a number of exercises have been run to test our level of preparedness and last November we published the "National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic". This sets out the Governments overall strategy in preparing for, and responding to, an influenza pandemic. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The Department regularly attends international conferences, meetings and workshops, hosted by the European Union (EU) and the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed at sharing information and exchanging ideas about pandemic influenza preparedness planning.

The UK is a member of the EU Health Security Committee which has a programme of work on pandemic influenza; we are also actively involved in the review of the WHO pandemic planning guidance and indicator work. Departmental officials are working with countries and the WHO to establish a more transparent WHO system for sharing influenza viruses and helping ensure more equitable access to benefits. We are also working with the upcoming French presidency to help plan a technical meeting on pandemic influenza and an informal ministerial meeting on health security threats, and are working with the G7 countries and Mexico on border and associated issues.

Biological Weapons

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans his Department has to deal with a *(a)* chemical and *(b)* biological attack on the UK; what stockpiles of vaccines there are to protect people against each chemical or biological agent; and if he will make a statement. [209292]

Dawn Primarolo: All national health service organisations, classed as Category 1 and 2 responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA 2004), have contingency plans in place to meet their responsibilities to ensure the continued delivery of healthcare services when faced with a wide range of disruptive challenges, including incidents involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents.

The Department supports all health service organisations in their contingency planning through the provision of extensive specialist and generic guidance and a national programme of training and exercises designed to test plans and familiarise health service staff with their respective roles and responsibilities during an incident.

The United Kingdom Health Departments have established an extensive stockpile of medical countermeasures and specialist equipment to be used to protect and treat the public in the event of a wide range of possible incidents or attacks. For obvious reasons of security, it would be inappropriate to specify what particular countermeasures are held and where they are located.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning were treated by the NHS in the last five years for which figures are available. [208569]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for health and social care does not hold complete data on the number of cases of carbon monoxide poisoning that were treated by the national health service in the last five years for which figures are available.

It does hold data on the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs), which indicate the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. These admissions do not represent the number of in-patients as a person may have more than one admission within the same year.

The total number of FAEs for the last five years relating to NHS hospitals in England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS, in which the patient had a primary diagnosis of 'T58 Toxic effect of carbon monoxide' at the start of his or her stay are provided in the following table.

1 April to 31 March each year	*Number of FAEs*
2006-07	457
2005-06	415
2004-05	397
2003-04	464
2002-03	470

Care Homes: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential care homes there were in (i) the Dacorum borough council area and (ii) Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since 1997. [210159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: Information on the numbers of residential and nursing care homes in the Dacorum borough council and Hemel Hempstead constituency areas is not held separately. Information is only available for the Hertfordshire council area.

Until 2001, information on the numbers of care and nursing homes was collected by the Department. From 2002, the information was collected by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) and later by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), which took over responsibility for regulating care services from NCSC in April 2004.

Table 1 shows the number of residential and nursing care homes in the Hertfordshire council area from 1997 to 2001.

Table 1: Number of care homes in Hertfordshire Council area from 1997 to 2001 by type of accommodation

Year[1]	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Residential homes	260	255	260	290	[3]n/a
Nursing homes[2]	70	75	80	75	[3]n/a

[1] As at 31 March for each year.

[2] Figures for nursing homes are aggregated from East and North Hertfordshire and West Hertfordshire Health Authorities.

[3] Data not supplied by Hertfordshire Council for 2001.

Source:

Department of Health

Table 2 shows the numbers of services registered with NCSC and CSCI in the Hertfordshire council area from 2003 to 2008. The NCSC began work on 1 April 2002. During the first months of NCSC's existence, there was a delay in registering some care homes, so complete information is not held for 2002.

Care homes registered in Hertfordshire council area from 2003 to 2008[1]

	Number
2003	
Residential care homes	230
Care homes with nursing	52
Total	282
2004	
Residential care homes	224
Care homes with nursing	52
Total	276
2005	
Residential care homes	229

Care homes registered in Hertfordshire council area from 2003 to 2008[1]

	Number
Care homes with nursing	54
Total	283
2006	
Residential care homes	234
Care homes with nursing	56
Total	290
2007	
Residential care homes	237
Care homes with nursing	56
Total	293
2008	
Residential care homes	235
Care homes with nursing	54
Non-medical care homes	1
Total	290

[1] As at 31 March for each year.
Source:
Department of Health

Carers

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people cared for at home by relatives; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse if those people were being cared for entirely by the NHS and local authorities. [208428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 2001 Census was the first time information on the numbers of carers was available on the basis of a detailed count. The 2001 Census indicates that there are some 6 million people providing unpaid care in the United Kingdom. However, this figure does not necessarily reflect the number of individuals being cared for, as there is not a one to one ratio of carers to care-recipients.

The Department has made no estimate of the cost to the public purse if those people being cared for by relatives were cared for by the NHS and local authorities.

The contribution carers make is recognised in law and the policies of local and central Government.

Chicken: Chlorine

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had at an EU level on the sale of chlorine-treated chicken for human consumption. [208916]

Dawn Primarolo: Although this issue falls within the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) area of responsibility, the FSA has made no representations to the European Union (EU) on the sale of chicken treated with chlorine intended for human consumption. Such processing aid treatments are not permitted in the EU or on chicken exported to the EU market.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a breakdown of the £800 million to be spent on arm's length bodies in 2008-09, broken down by body. [209137]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Disposition of national health services resources 2008-09

			£ million
Arm's length bodies	*Near cash*	*Non cash*	*Total*
Healthcare Commission	56.4858	2.8	59.286
Mental Health Act Commission	5.0939	0.119	5.213
NHS Blood and Transplant	56.62265	36.199	92.822
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	2.24105	0.351	2.592
Human Tissue Authority	1.1343	0.378	1.512
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	1.8525	0.179	2.032
General Social Care Council	0.00015	2.158	2.158
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	2.27525	0.995	3.270
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	10.50415	—	10.504
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	34.098696	0.5	34.599
National Patient Safety Agency	27.59845	1.157	28.755
Health Protection Agency	140.0852	17.247	157.332
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	11.7173	6.184	17.901
National Treatment Agency	0.5188	0.225	0.744
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	0	—	0.000
NHS Litigation Authority	2.41015		2.410
NHS Appointments Commission	3.29745	0.03	3.327
NHS Information Centre	33.14075	1.294	34.435
NHS Business Services Authority	136.7335	13.041	149.775
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Authority	28.4077	0.108	28.516
NHS Institute	77.81925	0.681	78.500
Commission for Social Care and Inspection		14.8	14.800
NHS Professionals	7.22	1.295	8.515
Transition Costs	23.92175	0.6	24.522
Departmental residual liabilities	3	—	3.000
Departmental transfer to Office of Standards in Education	3.74145	—	3.741
Total	669.9202	100.341	770.2612

Notes:
1. Non cash relates to capital charges, depreciation and other non cash items.
2. These figures are indicative and may change during 2008-09.
3. NHS Litigation Authority clinical negligence resources of £1.2 billion excluded from this table and are shown separately on page 148 of the Department's Annual Report.
4. In 2008-09 General Social Care Council funding, in the report, is shown as being funded from the social services budget rather than from central health budgets, so no funding is shown against central health budgets for that year.
5. In 2008-09 the majority of National Treatment Authority's funding, in the report, is being shown as coming from the drug misuse budget with only a small element shown against 2008-09 central health budgets. In 2007-08 the total funding is shown against the central health budgets.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 160 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a breakdown of the arm's length bodies' budgets in figures 9.18 and 9.19 for each financial year. [209140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Centrally managed national health service budgets (Table 9.18)

Arm's length bodies (ALBs)	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Healthcare Commission	59.564	56.486
Mental Health Act Commission	5.413	5.213
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	1.950	1.853
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	2.395	2.275
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	32.819	34.599
National Patient Safety Agency	29.051	28.755
National Treatment Agency	11.854	0.744
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	18.101	0.000
NHS Blood and Transplant	50.466	56.623
Health Protection Agency	1.026	0.000
NHS Litigation Authority Administration	2.537	2.410
NHS Litigation Authority	754.862	1,185.009
NHS Appointments Commission	3.471	3.297
Information Centre for health and social care	37.224	33.141
NHS Business Services Authority	150.668	149.775
NHS Institute	91.240	77.819
NHS Professionals	7.600	7.901
Transition cost offset	-53.947	-41.658
Departmental residual costs	1.200	3.000
Total	1,207.494	1,607.240

Central health and miscellaneous services budget

Arm's length bodies (ALBs)	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	2.359	2.241
Human Tissue Authority	1.194	1.134
General Social Care Council	9.437	0.000
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Authority	7.486	28.408
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	11.057	10.504
Health Protection Agency	146.516	140.085
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	12.334	11.717
Commission for Social Care and Inspection	54.385	63.350
DH transfer to Ofsted	16.991	3.741
Transition costs	53.244	67.582
Total	315.003	328.7625
Total Tables	1,522.497	1,936.003

Notes:

1. At the time of providing these figures, for the Departmental Report, 2007-08 allocations were still being adjusted and 2008-09 indicative budgets were being issued. The final budgets/allocations for all ALBs may therefore be different.
2. The NHS Purchasing and Supplies Authority is part funded from Department's administration budgets. In 2007-08 the administration funding is not included under the central health budgets line of the Report. The 2008-09 NHS Purchasing and Supplies Authority figure does include the administration funding.
3. In 2008-09 the general and social care council funding, in the report, is shown as being funded from the social services budget rather than from central health budgets, so no funding is shown against central health budgets for that year.
4. In 2008-09 the majority of the National Treatment Agency's funding, in the report, is being shown as coming from the drug misuse budget with only a small element shown against 2008-09 central health budgets.
5. The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health is closing down in 2008-09.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179883]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2207WS.

Disease Control: Prisons

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to conduct an anonymous blood-borne virus serosurvey in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [209104]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has no plans to conduct an anonymous blood-borne virus serosurvey in prisons at this time.

The prevalence of infection with blood-borne viruses (BBVs) in ex- and current injecting drug users in the community is currently used as a proxy for infection rates in prisons. This method is sufficiently robust to ascertain the scope and scale of the problem we face in relation to BBV infection in prisoners.

Drugs: Misuse

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions to *(a)* Southend hospital and *(b)* Basildon hospital that were (i) primarily related to drug misuse and (ii) where drug misuse was a secondary factor there have been in each of the last five years. [209632]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Food: Salt

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency have held with Consensus Action on Salt and Health in the last two years to discuss dietary salt intake; and if he will make a statement. [208673]

Dawn Primarolo: To aid the joint Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Department's goal to reduce average population salt intakes to no more than six grams a day, the FSA has met with Consensus Action on Salt and Health between June 2006-June 2008 to discuss a range of issues including dietary salt.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to meet representatives of the salt industry to discuss salt levels in food. [208674]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers currently do not have any plans to meet representatives of the salt industry to discuss salt levels in food.

General Practitioners: Nurses

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days a week on average GP surgeries have a practice nurse on site; how many GP surgeries which formerly had practice nurses on site have ceased to have in the last two years; and what proportion of the NHS budget for GP surgeries is ring-fenced for employing practice nurses. [209990]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. However, we do collect data on the numbers of practice nurses in England, which has shown a steady increase in numbers since 1997—headcount of 4,471 (24 per cent.); and full-time equivalent of 4,472 (44 per cent.)—as set out in the following table:

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
1997	18,389	10,082
1998	18,894	10,359
1999	19,495	10,689
2000	19,200	10,711
2001	19,846	11,163
2002	20,983	11,998
2003	21,667	12,967
2004	22,144	13,563
2005	22,904	13,793
2006[1]	23,797	14,616
2007	22,860	14,554

Notes:

1. More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. (These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 national health service infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.)

2. The impact of duplicates on FTE has been minimal with the removal of 507.

3. Funding is not ring-fenced for practice nurses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department gave to World Hepatitis Day on 19 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [209112]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of its ongoing hepatitis C awareness campaign, FaCe It, the Department specifically funded a series of activities to coincide with World Hepatitis Day, including:

a touring exhibition of photographic portraits of people with hepatitis C which visited three towns in London—Croydon, Camden and Stratford;

a day of radio interviews with Beach Boy, David Marks, who has had hepatitis C and media doctor/television presenter, Dr. Mark Porter; and

promotion of press and radio features about case studies of real patients affected by hepatitis C, who work with the FaCe It campaign.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State offered a message of support for World Hepatitis Day.

HIV Infection

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of HIV and AIDS have been diagnosed *(a)* in the last 30 years and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [209489]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reporting HIV and AIDS diagnoses in the United Kingdom

First diagnosis	*30 years*	*12 months*
HIV	93,231	6,840[1]
AIDS	23,596	750[1]

[1]. Data adjusted for reporting delay using statistical methods applied to data to the end of December 2007.

Notes:

1. Surveillance for AIDS started in 1982, for HIV in 1984.

2. Figures will include some records of the same individuals, which are unmatched because of difference in the information supplied.

3. Numbers for recent years may rise as further reports are received.

4. Data will include many individuals who have been infected with HIV outside the UK, but who have been subsequently diagnosed in the UK.

Source:

Health Protection Agency.

Homeopathy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on homeopathic treatments remaining available on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [209341]

Dawn Primarolo: It is Government policy that all decisions on what services/treatments to commission and fund are the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs). Most PCTs will have their own policy on the commissioning and funding of complementary and alternative medicine (including homoeopathy). Safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness, along with the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners are all taken into account when decisions are being made on the provision of a treatment.

Influenza Vaccine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people died in each trust as a result of receiving an influenza vaccine in each of the last five years; [209176]

(2) how many people were admitted to hospital in each trust as a result of receiving an influenza vaccine in each of the last five years. [209193]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for regulating and monitoring the safety of medicines and vaccines.

An important source of information that the MHRA uses to monitor the safety of medicines and vaccines is through the receipt of spontaneous reports of suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme (YCS), by health care professionals and patients. This enables new or changing safety issues to be promptly detected.

The number of people in the United Kingdom whose death or hospitalisation was suspected to be associated with influenza vaccination and reported to the MHRA via the YCS is provided by year since 2003 in the following tables. It is not possible to further break these data down by individual trust.

Number of suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports associated with influenza virus with a fatal outcome, received for the time period 1 January 2003 to 31 May 2008 broken down by year

Year of receipt	*Number of reports*
2003	2
2004	5

Number of suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports associated with influenza virus with a fatal outcome, received for the time period 1 January 2003 to 31 May 2008 broken down by year

Year of receipt	*Number of reports*
2005	7
2006	3
2007	5
2008[1]	1
Total	23

[1] Data for 2008 include ADR data from 1 January 2008 to 31 May 2008

Number of suspected ADR reports associated with influenza virus where the reporter has stated the ADR to be serious for the following reason: "Involved or prolonged patient hospitalisation", for the time period 1 January 2003 to 31 May 2008 broken down by year

Year of receipt	*Number of reports*
2003	19
2004	27
2005	21
2006	29
2007	21
2008[1]	6
Total	123

[1] Data for 2008 include ADR data from 1 January 2008 to 31 May 2008.

It is important to note that the reporting of a suspected adverse reaction does not necessarily mean that it has been caused by the vaccine—because the reports are based on suspicions, no causal link may be established. While some reported suspected adverse reactions may represent true reactions to a vaccine, others may represent illnesses unrelated to vaccination that occur naturally in the population of vaccine recipients or concomitant medicines, and their timing in relation to vaccination may be purely coincidental.

Given that approximately eight million people who are elderly or at high risk of severe cardiac and respiratory illness are likely to be vaccinated with influenza vaccine over the winter season each year, it is inevitable that some patients may die or be hospitalised shortly after vaccination. These events may be reported via the YCS even if the temporal association with vaccination was coincidental.

The seasonal flu vaccine is safe in the vast majority of those who are vaccinated. The balance of benefits to risks of the influenza vaccines remains overwhelmingly positive.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what influenza vaccines his Department has purchased; from which producers they were purchased; what quantities of each have been purchased; and if he will make a statement. [209201]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department purchased 25,000 doses of seasonal flu vaccine in 2007-08 from Solvay and Wyeth. The quantity of vaccine by supplier is commercially confidential information.

The vaccine was purchased for use in the Poultry Workers Seasonal Flu Programme. Vaccine for the routine seasonal flu programme offering the vaccine to those aged 65 years and over and those in risk groups is purchased by general practitioners rather than the Department.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has in place to consider commercial interests when responding to freedom of information requests; [208741]

(2) what plans executive agencies of his Department have to review regulation of *(a)* unlicensed medicines, *(b)* off-label medicines and *(c)* medicinal products specifically manufactured to meet the special needs of a patient; [208742]

(3) what regulations are in place to prevent the promotion of unlicensed medicines. [208743]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), in conjunction with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and representative trade associations, has developed guidance on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. When considering the release of information which would or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests, the MHRA will obtain the views of the person or company concerned before making a final decision to disclose or withhold the requested information.

The MHRA is leading a review of the regulatory arrangements in the United Kingdom which allow an authorised health care professional to commission an unlicensed medicinal product to meet the special needs of an individual patient. The MHRA issued a discussion document in February 2008 and interested parties have been invited to submit views by 30 June. There are no plans to review off-label use of medicines.

The Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994, as amended, prohibit the advertising of medicines which do not have a marketing authorisation, traditional herbal registration or homoeopathic registration in force. Additionally, the advertising of an unlicensed medicine for human use is prohibited under the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisation Etc) Regulations 1994 as amended and Schedules 2 and 4 of The Medicines for Human Use (Manufacturing, Wholesale Dealing and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2005.

NHS: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 451W, on the NHS: vaccination, if he will increase uptake data collection for all treatments recommended for use in the NHS by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; and if he will make a statement. [208238]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans currently to extend uptake data collection for immunisations outside the national routine immunisation programme. Data for "other" treatments are not collected in the format requested. Information on "prescriptions dispensed in the community in England" has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/PCA%20publication/PCA%202007%20complete.pdf

Care and Support Services

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated to inform its consultation on the future of care and support services. [208639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not commissioned any research specifically to inform the public engagement process on the future of care and support services, other than research with the public to determine appropriate naming and branding of all materials for use during the engagement process. The Department has commissioned some modelling work from the personal social services research unit which was used to identify the size of the funding gap as laid out in the launch document for the public engagement, and will inform the Green Paper more widely.

The Department has evaluated a variety of research. In November 2006, HM Treasury announced that they would undertake an internal review of the funding of services for the over-85s, including the King's Fund report "Securing Good Care for Older People", and research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation into the funding of social care. The results of this review have fed into the engagement process on the future of care and support services, as have publications by other major stakeholder organisations on this subject.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to develop care and support services pending the outcome of its consultation on the future of such services. [208640]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cross-sector concordat "Putting People First" published in December 2007 establishes the collaboration between central and local government, the sector's professional leadership, providers and the regulator. It sets out the shared aims and values which will guide the transformation of adult social care, and recognises that the sector will work across agendas with users and carers to transform people's experience of local support and services. Copies of the concordat are available in the Library and are also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081118

The transformation of adult social care is supported by the social care reform grant, a new, ring-fenced grant of £520 million over three years to support councils to redesign and reshape their adult social care services, with the majority having most of the core components of a personalised system in place. The expectation is that by 2010-11, councils will have made significant steps towards greater personalisation.

Further information, conditions and advice on the social care reform grant are available in "Local Authority Circular (DH) (2008)1: Transforming Social Care" which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* care providers in the (i) private, (ii) voluntary and (iii) independent healthcare sectors and *(b)* representatives of (A) insurers and (B) the Association of British Insurers as part of his Department's consultation on the future of care and support services. [208641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers and officials within the Department have formal and informal meetings with stakeholders on a regular basis. In addition, care providers from different sectors are represented on the Department's national stakeholder forum.

In specific relation to the care, support, independence project, we have set up a stakeholder panel with membership from care providers and insurers, including the Association of British Insurers. This Panel met on 6 April 2008 and further meetings are planned. In addition, representatives from these provider and insurance sectors are being asked to attend regional stakeholder events, scheduled between June and November this year, to discuss the key issues.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to involve *(a)* patients with longer-term conditions and *(b)* (i) adult and (ii) young carers in his Department's consultation on the future of care and support services; [208642]

(2) what steps he is taking to achieve a broad range of responses to his Department's consultation on the future of care and support services. [208643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A new care and support system will affect every adult in the country. The purpose of the debate launched by my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 12 May 2008 is to ensure everyone can have their say via the following methods:

at our website www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk;

emailing careandsupport@dh.gsi.gov.uk;

writing to the Care and Support Team, Room 543, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS;

the document The case for change—Why England needs a new care and support system is also available in an easy read format for people with learning disabilities and in an easy access format for people who have had a stroke. Copies of the document are available in the Library;

a series of public events where the key issues will be discussed in detail. These include a stakeholder event in every Government region and a number of citizen events. The stakeholder events will include user and patient groups that represent patients with long-term conditions including both adults and young carers;

at the end of the six month engagement period there will be a final event bringing stakeholders and citizens together to provide a further opportunity for discussion; and additional research will also be undertaken to ensure groups of people whose views may not be readily heard via the routes outlined above, have the opportunity to give their views.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to involve hon. Members in its consultation on the future of care and support services. [209337]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Hon. Members were alerted to the launch of the public engagement on the reform of the care and support system via a written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 48-50WS. A copy of the document, 'The Case for Change—Why England Needs a New Care and Support System', which was published on 12 May 2008 to mark the beginning of this engagement process, is available in the Library.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will treat Derek Wanless's reports on care and support services commissioned by the King's Fund as submissions to his Department's consultation on the future of such services. [209338]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the pre-Budget report 2006, HM Treasury announced that the Government would be undertaking an internal review of care for the over-85s, looking in particular at Derek Wanless's report for the King's Fund, Securing Good Care for Older People. The outcome of that review, which was extended to cover the over-65s, is feeding into the development of the Green Paper on reform of the care and support system.

Pregnancy: Dietary Supplements

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on whether pregnant women who take Vitamin A reduce the risk of having a baby with a cleft lip or palate; and if he will make a statement. [209114]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council (MRC) is presently supporting research specifically concerned with vitamin A supplements and the risk of cleft lip or palate.

The Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College London Biomedical Research Centre formed as part of the implementation of the Government's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" will however undertake research on the factors that are important in normal and abnormal palate development. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

The MRC is additionally supporting a basic research study in animals focused on neural patterning that aims to investigate how excess or insufficient amounts of vitamin A during pregnancy can affect craniofacial development. The MRC has also supported a number of studies exploring genetic factors relating to the development of cleft lip and palate.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on prescription charges. [208645]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department receives representations regularly on all aspects of the charging arrangements from a range of interested parties, hon. Members, noble Lords and the public.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 13 June 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the most recent US Farm Bill when enacted on British farming exports. [208915]

Jonathan Shaw: The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 ("the Act") represents a missed opportunity during a time of high commodity prices to reduce the levels of trade distorting domestic support given to US agriculture. The impact of domestic support payments on global agricultural markets is difficult to disaggregate at the country by country level and we have not conducted detailed analysis of the impact of changes in the Act on British farming exports. The Act makes relatively minor changes to the commodity title in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (i.e. the last US Farm Bill).

Agriculture: Young People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided to young farmers' organisations for the provision of skills and development in each of the last three years; and what plans he has to provide such funding in the next three years. [209362]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has provided £51,500 to the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs for each of the last three financial years covering the period 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, a total of £154,500 over three years. The National Federation for Young Farmers Clubs have used this funding for a range of developmental activities for their members, aged 10 to 26 years, including skills training and competitive activities .

Funding of £51,500 for the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs has been committed for the period 2007-08. No further commitments of funding have been made at this time.

Animal Products

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animal by-product plants were approved in each of the last three years. [210045]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of animal by-product plants approved in the last two financial years:

	Number of plants approved
2006-07[1]	1,095
2007-08[1]	1,084

[1] Financial year April to March

Animal Health (AH) have an approval period of two years, then plants are re-approved. As a result no figures are available for more than two years ago, as those plants will either have been re-approved or are no longer operating. The AH re-approval overwrites the original dates, making it impossible to distinguish between new and re-approved plants.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to respond to the Fourth Report of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Session 2007-08, HC 130-I, on badgers and cattle TB; and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond. [210295]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* We have no date for a response to the Committee's Report at this time. There is a great deal of complex evidence to consider in relation to bovine TB and badger culling and we have been determined to get the views of all the interested parties over recent months. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State explained in his letter to the Chair of the EFRA Committee on 28 April, it will take time to produce a response that deals thoroughly with the Committee's recommendations. The matter is receiving our full attention.

Coastal Areas: Dogs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether dog-owners will be consulted on coastal access provisions in the Draft Marine Bill; and whether he plans to increase access to the coast to people with dogs under the Bill. [210182]

Jonathan Shaw: We have held discussions with the Kennel Club about the coastal access provisions in the draft Marine Bill which aim to improve public access to the English coast for walkers and for those who may be accompanied by a dog.

We have no plans to specifically consult dog owners but anyone wishing to comment on the draft Bill may do so by writing to the Marine Bill Team, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Area 2C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, or e-mail:

MarineBillConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

The closing date for responses is 26 June 2008.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research evidence was reviewed by his Department on the use of electric shock training devices for dogs prior to commissioning further research. [209150]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 Mar 2008, *Official Report*, column 945W.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the animal welfare consequences of the use of electric shock *(a)* collars, *(b)* mats and *(c)* leads in training dogs. [209515]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department is aware of a number of scientific studies on these devices, but considers that to date those studies published are not sufficiently robust. Further research into these types of collars is a priority. An Open Competition Call was published in DEFRA's annual research requirements document in August 2005 inviting bids for research on the effect of both electronic and non-electronic training aids on the welfare of dogs. A single proposal was received in response to the call but it did not satisfactorily meet the advertised requirement and it was rejected.

In July 2006, DEFRA circulated a revised call for research in the form of a limited tender call. The call invited proposals for studies to assess the effect of specific electronic pet training aids (excluding electric fences) on the welfare of dogs. The call encouraged an epidemiological approach, based on observation of collars already in use. One proposal was received in response to the call and a study commissioned which is due to complete in 2010.

DEFRA has also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, advisory body to Government on companion animal welfare matters, to undertake an independent study of available evidence on the use of these electronic training aids to help inform policy and complement the DEFRA funded study.

The study will not cover electric mats and leads. We are not aware that these devices are used to any significant extent. If they do cause a dog to suffer unnecessarily then it would be possible to bring a prosecution under the Animal welfare act 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department's research into electric shock collars will be completed; what the cost of the research is; and when he expects to decide on whether to ban electric shock collars. [210180]

Jonathan Shaw: The study to assess the effect of electronic training aids on the welfare of dogs commenced in 2007, and it is expected to be completed in 2010 at a cost of £469,000. Details of the research project are available on the DEFRA website. We will not be making any decision on whether to ban electronic training aids until we have considered the results of the completed research project.

Institute for Animal Health: Compton

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had on the future of the Institute for Animal Health at Compton; and if he will make a statement. [209835]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: DEFRA's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer was a member of the independent review panel, chaired by professor Sir John Beringer, to advise the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) on the future in terms of funding, governance and risk management at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH).

Among other things, the panel recommended that the BBSRC Council should consider the future of IAH Compton in the context of work to develop a new centre at Pirbright. DEFRA is currently in discussion with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the BBSRC about the future of the Pirbright centre.

Livestock: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions there were for non-compliance with requirements on cleansing and disinfecting livestock vehicles in each of the last five years. [210043]

Jonathan Shaw: Over the last five years, the numbers of successful prosecutions resulting from non-compliance with cleansing and disinfecting requirements for all vehicles, including road, air and sea, are as follows:

	Number of Convictions
2003	1
2004	2
2005	4
2006	4
2007	2

Meat: Smuggling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to find alternative sources of funding for the provision of border controls designed to stop the importation of illegal meat following the reduction of his Department's funding. [209747]

Jonathan Shaw: Anti-smuggling controls on all products of animal origin at the Great Britain border except at border inspection posts are operated by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and resourced directly from their budgets. The reduction in DEFRA's funding will not impact on this.

Funding continues to be available for DEFRA to help increase public awareness of the rules and regulations that are in place to restrict personal food imports.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) retains responsibility for anti-smuggling controls in Northern Ireland.

All commercial imports of meat from outside the EU must be checked on entry to ensure that they comply with the import requirements. The costs of these checks must be recovered from the importer under EU law. If a consignment does not comply with the EU rules, it must be re-exported or destroyed and additional costs incurred during this process are also recovered from the importer.

Quarrying: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations he has received about quarrying on Longstone Edge in Derbyshire; and if he will take steps to end quarrying in the area covered by the 1952 planning permission. [210458]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* Since the beginning of 2007 we have received over 70 representations from fellow Members of Parliament and stakeholder organisations and also over 70 representations directly from members of the public about the quarrying on Longstone Edge in Derbyshire.

We are taking a close interest in this case and are in regular contact with the National Park Authority to try and find a long-term solution.

Wildlife: Smuggling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live animals were seized on entry to the UK in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many of them were *(a)* destroyed, *(b)* repatriated, *(c)* placed in the care of Government agencies and *(d)* placed in the care of charities. [210129]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* There are no central records for the seizure of animals in recent years, although figures may be kept by the appropriate local authority.

Staff from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) seize live animals only in connection with Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora. Data on animals seized under the Regulation are set out in HMRC's Annual Reports. In 2006-07 there were 39 seizures, comprising 1,229 separate animals.

Animals are only destroyed on the basis of expert advice from qualified veterinarians, who also carry out the necessary euthanasia. Most animals that are seized will be placed into the care of zoos, registered keepers/breeders, breeding programmes, or registered societies.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons and on what basis charities taking over care of animals seized on entry to the UK are required to pay fees to take possession of the animals; and if he will make a statement. [210130]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* Costs may be involved if animals require quarantine. If an owner is not available, the relevant local authority is responsible for paying for an initial two week period. However, rabies susceptible animals have to go into quarantine for a six month period, and these costs must be met or the animals will be destroyed or returned to the exporting country. If there is no owner or importer to claim responsibility for the animals, and charities wish to save the animals from being euthanized it is the responsibility of those charities to meet the costs of the quarantine period. This is a decision made by the charities, and they would not receive compensation for this from public funds.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether charities taking over care of animals seized on entry to the UK are compensated from public funds for the cost of that care. [210131]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* Charities are not paid compensation from public funds for care of seized animals on entry to the UK.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many UK residents live within a 50 db Leq contour around an airport; [209265]

(2) how many people live within the 57dB Leq noise contour around a UK airport. [209445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State publishes annual aircraft noise contour maps and reports (which include population statistics) for the three London airports (Heathrow Gatwick and Stansted) which are designated under section 80 for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 for noise control purposes.

These follow the standard UK practice of producing aircraft noise contours for the average summer's day (Leq 16 hour, 7.00 am to 11.00 pm) where 'summer' is the 92-day period from 16 June to 15 September.

Aircraft noise contour reports for 2007 in respect of Heathrow Gatwick and Stansted are to be published shortly. The number of people falling within the 57dBA Leq contour is 251,900, 4,800 and 2,500 respectively.

The Secretary of State is not responsible for the production of aircraft noise contour maps/reports at non-designated airports. The publication of such material is a matter for local decision.

The reports and maps for Heathrow Gatwick and Stansted are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/nec/

Additionally, population statistics are summarised for these airports and for some of the non designated airports in table 3.10 of Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007 this table can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/energyenvironment/.

Although 54dBA Leq aircraft noise contours are sometimes produced as a sensitivity analysis, aircraft modelling below such levels is generally considered to be unlikely to generate accurate and reliable results. However we do intend under the auspices of the Department's Aircraft Noise Monitoring Advisory Committee to review the issues and practical difficulties of noise monitoring at lower levels.

Aviation: Disabled

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken at EU level to phase out aircraft which do not meet disability access standards on routes operated wholly within the EU. [208247]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to phase out aircraft which do not meet disability access standards.

A new EC Regulation gives rights to disabled passengers travelling by air. The Department for Transport is currently consulting on its revised Code of Practice 'Access to air travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility' which provides guidance to the aviation industry on how to comply with its obligations under the Regulation. Although not covered by the Regulation, this guidance also includes material on accessible aircraft design.

We aim to publish this Code when the EC Regulation comes fully into force from 26 July 2008.

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking to encourage and enable local authorities to offer flexible alternatives to the national concessionary bus pass. [208893]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are responsible for the statutory minimum off-peak bus travel concession that all Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) are required to provide. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 preserves the flexibility of TCAs to enhance their schemes locally at their own expense. For example, TCAs may choose to offer their residents vouchers or tokens for local use in taxis, give concessionary bus travel beyond the statutory times, or extend concessionary travel to other modes. Any decision to offer these discretionary elements is a matter for individual TCAs.

Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, to the hon. Member for East Yorkshire, *Official Report*, column 1894W, on cars: research, how much expenditure her Department has incurred in testing vehicle emissions for the purposes of national emissions inventory modelling in the last three years; and by whom such testing has been conducted. [209252]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure by the Department on emission factor testing and analysis for the purpose of the national atmospheric emissions inventory model in the last three financial years (2005-6, 2006-7 and 2007-8) amounted to some £279,860. This work was carried out by Shell Global Solutions (UK), Tickford Powertrain Test Limited and AEA Technology PLC. Copies of the resulting reports may be found on the Department's website at

www.dft.gov.uk/pqr/roads/roads/environment/research/cqvcf

or by navigating from the Department's home page (www.dft.gov.uk) to DfT home > Policy, guidance and research > Roads and vehicles > Environmental issues > Research > Cleaner and Quieter Vehicles and Cleaner Fuels.

A small amount of emissions factor testing work has also been carried out in the course of the Department's annual enforcement programme of checks on manufacturers' production.

In addition, some £110,000 of expenditure was incurred on research into improved methodologies for emissions modelling.

This was undertaken by the Transport Research Laboratory.

Cars: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars in *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Hampshire have been registered in bands F and G since (i) 1 March 2001 and (ii) 23 March 2006. [211400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of licensed cars registered in Southampton and Hampshire at the end of 2007 with carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the present Band F (186 to 225 g/km) and Band G (over 225 g/km) were as follows:

	186 to 225 g/km	*Over 225 g/km*
Southampton		
Registered between 1 March 2001 and 31 December 2007	6,920	2,641
Registered between 23 March 2006 and 31 December 2007	1,118	365
Hampshire		
Registered between 1 March 2001 and 31 December 2007	79,474	41,997
Registered between 23 March 2006 and 31 December 2007	17,933	8,522

Cars with carbon dioxide emissions greater than 225 g/km are taxed in Band F if they were first registered between 1 March 2001 and 23 March 2006.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 7W, on departmental data protection, what the appropriate level of vetting is for individuals contracted by her Department to supply specialist data and IT audit resources. [209280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All staff, consultants and contractors must complete, prior to taking up their posts, the HMG baseline standard checks to positively establish identity and obtain background information on the subject by taking up references. The checks are regarded as providing sufficient assurance as to reliability and integrity for an individual to have access to UK material marked Restricted and Confidential, and occasional access to Secret material. Satisfactory completion of the baseline standard procedures is also required before an individual is issued with a permanent pass for departmental buildings and before an individual is given access to any of the Department's IT systems.

In addition to the baseline standard, individuals who require access to the Department's sensitive IT systems or processes, including for IT audit purposes, may in some circumstances require Security Check (SC) clearance. Any such requirements for SC clearance, for IT audit or any other purposes are determined on a case by case basis.

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pages have been deleted from her Department's website in each of the last 12 months, broken down by subject matter. [209032]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For the period 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008, the Department removed 537 web pages from its website. Typical page removals include expiry of advertised job vacancies; replacement pages with up-to-date versions of the content; and removal of guidance and content perceived to be out-of-date.

The following table breaks down content removed by subject matter.

Subject area	*Number of pages deleted*
About DfT	72
Aviation	2
Consultations	10
Crime and public transport	1
Economics and appraisal	0
Evaluation	1
FOI	4
Freight	48
Press Office	29
Railways	74
Regional and local transport	9
Road safety	9
Roads and vehicles	112
Science and research	4
Shipping and ports	1
Social inclusion	0
Sustainable travel	17
Transport and Works Act	1
Transport Direct	2
Transport evaluation	0
Transport for you	111
Transport security	17
Transport statistics	13

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on transport: policy, what research documents and consultation on the effects of her Department's policies on different groups in society her Department has sponsored; which of these were conducted by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* external organisations; and what fees her Department paid in respect of each such project in each year since 1998. [209255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested, which is readily available from 2007, is listed in the following table. Further information dating back to 1998 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Year	*Projects*	*Firm*	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	Developing guidance and advice to address the social and distributional impacts of road pricing	Centre for Transport Studies, University of the West of England	25,000
2007-08	Evidence base review on mobility: choices and barriers for different social groups	Centre for Research in Social Policy	119,430
2007-08	Understanding travel needs, behaviour and aspirations of people in later life	NatCen	100,819
2007-08	Understanding travel aspirations, needs and behaviour of young adults	NatCen	109,831
2007-08	Accessibility planning -evaluation scoping study	Atkins and CRSP	88,057
2007-08	Assessment of accessibility standards for disabled people in land based transport vehicles	Human Engineering, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association	164,998
2008-09	Travel needs behaviours and aspirations of disabled people	NatCen	97,599
2008-09	The role of the car	Nat Cen	98,834
2008-09	Assessing social and distributional impacts in transport scheme appraisal and evaluation	Atkins, BMRB, Centre for Transport Studies, University of the West of England	201,333

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys have been made to *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Lille and *(c)* Brussels on official business by staff in her Department in the last three years. [209257]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (central) and five of its agencies do not record details of journeys by destination, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency recorded 0 journeys to Paris, two to Lille and seven to Brussels over the last three years. The vehicle Certification Agency recorded seven journeys to Paris, two to Lille, and 13 to Brussels in 2007-08, but could provide information for earlier years only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what proportion of its staff her Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proportion of Department for Transport staff who have been provided with vocational training in the last three years is as follows:

	Staff receiving training	*Total staff*	*Proportion (percentage)*
2005	8861	19,286	46
2006	8499	19,143	44
2007	7617	18,840	40

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to reduce the levels of drink-driving. [209947]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The Government aim to reduce drinking and driving through a combination of effective law enforcement, maintaining a tough penalties regime and continuing to invest in high-profile national publicity campaigns.

Police enforcement has been enhanced in recent years by enabling blood specimens to be taken from unconscious, hospitalised drink-drive suspects. The police have also been given powers to carry out evidential roadside breathtesting, subject to type approval of appropriate devices.

The Road Safety Act 2006 contains a number of other measures designed to deter drink-driving and reduce reoffending. These include enabling powers to require serious, including repeat, offenders to retake the driving test at the end of their disqualification; to improve the operation of the drink-drive rehabilitation scheme; to close loopholes in the law relating to high risk offenders; and to create a statutory alcohol ignition interlock programme.

We have recently launched the THINK! Summer 2008 drink-drive publicity campaign, which is running in parallel with the police's enforcement campaign throughout June. This is a multi-media campaign which builds on the Moment of Doubt commercial launched last year emphasising the serious personal consequences of a drink-drive conviction. The new campaign focuses on the 11-year driving licence endorsement for most drink-drive offences.

We remain committed to public consultation on further measures for tackling drink-driving, including ways of making police enforcement easier, and are aiming to publish a consultation document within the next few months.

Eurostar

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Eurostar tickets were paid for by her Department in each of the last three years; and what her Department's expenditure on such tickets was in each year. [209258]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the division of responsibilities is between her Department and BAA on security at Heathrow Terminal 5. [209054]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is responsible for the National Aviation Security Programme which sets out mandatory measures and associated guidance for the UK aviation industry. Implementation of the relevant measures is the responsibility of airport operators and airlines. We work closely with industry to ensure that these measures are delivered, and have worked particularly intensively with BAA at Heathrow both prior to and since the opening of T5.

Railways: Standards

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department issues to rail franchise holders on their duty to co-operate with other franchise holders seeking to fulfil the terms of their franchise. [210925]

Mr. Tom Harris: In principle, franchisees are solely responsible for the delivery of contracted rail services, as these do not depend on co-operation with other franchisees. However, train operators have reliability and punctuality targets in their franchise contracts and are required to work with other operators and Network Rail to drive up performance on shared routes. There are also contractual requirements to work with other operators where necessary, for instance on timetable development, in the event of disruption, or with station improvement work.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008 to the hon. Member for City of York, *Official Report*, column 1391-2W, on roads: accidents, on how many occasions the information provided by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to the police and courts has subsequently been found to be incorrect. [209263]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to provide these figures as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not hold this information.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure road safety is upheld when road maintenance is taking place. [209946]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The Department for Transport recognises that during road maintenance and street works it is important to protect adequately both road workers and road users. To enable highway authorities, statutory utilities and contractors to maintain safety there is comprehensive, national guidance on how to design and operate temporary traffic management in Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual. This guidance is developed by the Highways Agency in association with industry and other stakeholders such as the Health and Safety Executive. Additional guidance, mainly for workers undertaking urban utilities work is also included in "Safety at Street Works and Road Works: a Code of Practice". Both documents are published on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk.

These documents recognise that the principle of maintaining adequate safety requires workers to be protected with cones, barriers and safety zones. However, as cones and barriers can pose a risk to road users speed limits are often imposed to reduce that risk, with enforcement measures where practicable.

Schools: Cycling

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 700W, on schools: cycling, which 36 local authorities have received funding from her Department under the Bikeability programme. [209273]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 35 local authorities were offered cycle training grants in 2007-08, plus a grant to Transport for London. 34 authorities outside London took up the grant, with one later deciding they were unable to deliver the additional training. The 34 authorities outside London were:

Bath and North East Somerset council
Bedfordshire county council
Birmingham city council
Blackburn with Darwen borough council
Buckinghamshire county council
Coventry city council
Cumbria county council
Dudley Metropolitan borough council
Durham county council
Gateshead council
Hertfordshire county council
Kirklees metropolitan council
Leicester city council
Luton borough council
Manchester city council
Merseyside LTP Partnership
North East Lincolnshire council
Northampton county council
Oldham metropolitan borough council
Redcar and Cleveland borough council
Rotherham metropolitan borough council
Sheffield city council
Somerset county council
South Gloucestershire council
Staffordshire county council
Stockport metropolitan borough council
Stockton on Tees borough council
Stoke-on-Trent city council
Surrey county council
Tameside metropolitan borough council
Warrington borough council
Wigan council
Wiltshire county council
Wolverhampton city council

In March this year we announced that 69 local authorities would receive cycle training grant in 2008-09. These are:

Bath and NE Somerset council
Barnsley metropolitan borough council
Bedfordshire county council
Birmingham city council
Blackburn and Darwen council
Blackpool borough council
Bolton metropolitan borough council
Bradford city council
Brighton and Hove city council
Buckinghamshire county council
Bristol city council
Bury metropolitan borough council
Coventry city council
Cumbria county council
Devon county council
Doncaster metropolitan borough council
Dudley metropolitan borough council
Durham city council
Essex county council
Gateshead metropolitan borough council
Hampshire county council
Hartlepool borough council
Hertfordshire CC
Kent county council
Kirklees metropolitan borough council
Lancashire county council
Leicester city council
Luton borough council
Manchester city council
Medway district council
Merseyside LTP Partnership
Middlesbrough borough council
Northamptonshire county council
North Somerset district council
North Tyneside council
Nottingham city council
Nottinghamshire county council
Northumberland county council
Oldham metropolitan borough council
Oxfordshire county council
Redcar and Cleveland metropolitan borough council
Rochdale metropolitan borough council
Rotherham metropolitan borough council
Rutland borough council
Salford city council
Sheffield city council
Shropshire county council
Slough borough council
Solihull city council
Somerset county council
Southend borough council
South Tyneside council
South Gloucester council
Staffordshire county council
Stockport metropolitan borough council

Stockton on Tees metropolitan borough council MBC
Stoke city council
Surrey county council
Tameside metropolitan borough council
Telford and Wrekin council
Thurrock council borough council
Torbay borough council
Warrington borough council
West Berkshire DC
Wigan metropolitan borough council
Warwickshire county council
Wiltshire county council
Worcestershire county council
Wolverhampton metropolitan borough council

Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to re-evaluate its transport appraisals using the current guide price for oil of $120 per barrel. [208923]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not plan to re-evaluate appraisals on the basis of the current guide price for oil. Transport improvements have long-term impacts many years into the future and current oil prices will necessarily only provide some of the evidence. The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) analyses both current oil prices and factors determining long-term trends in the price of oil. The Department for Transport provides promoters with fuel price forecasts based on BERR forecasts.

Transport: Disabled

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the baseline number of *(a)* trains and *(b)* buses accessible to people with disabilities is against which the 2008 to 2011 public service agreement 15 will be monitored; and if she will make a statement. [208361]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* At 1 January 2008, the number of rail vehicles compliant with the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations was 4,700 (which is 31 per cent. of all rail vehicles) including approx 4,600 heavy rail trains (42 per cent. of that group). The Department for Transport records the number of accessible rail vehicles as they enter service.

Data on the number of accessible buses are collected for the annual Public Transport Statistics Bulletin for Great Britain. There was an increase in the percentage of low floor buses up from 50 per cent. in 2005-06 to 58 per cent. in 2006-07. We have met the voluntary target agreed with the bus industry which is that 50 per cent. of buses should be low floor by 2010. All full size buses must comply with the Public Vehicle Accessibility Regulations, which include a requirement for low floor, wheelchair accessible buses, by 2017.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in each London borough in each year since 1997. [210275]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of bankruptcies in each London borough between 2000 and 2007 derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals; figures for earlier years are not available on this basis.

	Bankruptcy orders							
London borough	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Barking and Dagenham	49	45	40	82	86	132	224	228
Barnet	66	86	85	94	135	215	250	270
Bexley	62	69	66	89	119	178	182	168
Brent.	55	58	47	68	91	112	197	186
Bromley	60	77	64	80	123	219	312	272
Camden	42	66	50	105	143	202	264	227
City and County of the City of London	7	4	2	5	6	7	10	14
City of Westminster	58	63	82	99	123	169	190	193
Croydon	72	76	85	96	139	207	282	266
Ealing	58	43	55	74	108	154	194	201
Enfield	53	71	66	76	119	120	187	231
Greenwich	58	48	77	90	121	190	250	283
Hackney	29	45	58	76	129	195	265	224
Hammersmith and Fulham	30	36	52	45	98	134	147	155
Haringey	52	39	54	62	113	135	217	232
Harrow	50	56	50	55	64	98	153	150
Havering	62	56	49	89	94	160	181	230
Hillingdon	69	49	47	74	83	163	202	195
Hounslow	41	61	44	62	120	153	202	186
Islington	46	45	67	76	142	199	243	239
Kensington and Chelsea	53	58	60	83	125	149	181	141
Kingston upon Thames	42	23	55	46	79	89	130	109
Lambeth	56	73	95	154	372	403	319	261
Lewisham	59	60	52	70	109	180	238	273
Merton	41	36	43	64	91	107	105	109
Newham	53	38	61	98	112	150	243	230
Redbridge	42	62	51	73	95	143	195	208
Richmond upon Thames	33	45	65	64	81	103	136	150
Southwark	35	54	69	107	182	246	274	241
Sutton	31	41	59	59	98	125	183	138
Tower Hamlets	88	76	102	131	169	214	249	237
Waltham Forest	45	48	31	55	96	134	216	210
Wandsworth	50	57	48	87	93	140	164	175

Notes:

1. Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

2. In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Employment: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to increase the number and improve the retention of jobs in the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [209093]

Mr. McFadden: As part of the Government's wider strategy on job creation and retention in the East of England, the Regional Development Agency, EEDA is charged with developing a strategic vision for the region. EEDA is currently completing a review of the region's economic strategy (RES) and this will provide the basis for co-ordinated action to bring about sustainable improvements in the region's economic performance and meet its aspirations to increase the overall employment rate to 80 per cent. by 2031.

To support the delivery of this ambition, EEDA has developed a number of programmes which contribute to the achievement of higher employment levels by:

> Encouraging new business growth and improving the survivability of small and medium sized businesses by providing business support services through Business Link and the Manufacturing Advisory Service. EEDA is planning to boost the level of specialist business support services available in the coming year with the introduction of new services delivering specialist ICT, design and innovation advice.
>
> Providing a range of specialist support activities to attract mobile foreign direct investment to the region through EEDA's sister organisation, East of England International and to provide export advice to companies looking to compete in overseas markets.
>
> Providing financial help in the form of grants and loans to support SME growth throughout the East of England.
>
> Improving the employability of individuals unable to participate in the region's economy and increasing the number of employment opportunities available through EEDA's Economic Participation programme.

Supporting the development of the region's science base by investing in the development of high quality science parks and enterprise hubs.

The Chancellor's pre Budget report in 2007 also enabled RDAs to take lead responsibility for co-ordinating and managing the response to industrial crises or natural disasters which have the potential to create substantial economic shocks and impact severely on business.

EEDA's work will ensure the continued and improved prosperity of the East of England including increasing the number of jobs, managing the changing structure of jobs (a greater proportion of jobs requiring more skilled labour), and retaining the number of jobs.

Post Offices: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which post office branches in east Devon made a loss in each of the last five years. [209930]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: National Lottery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on locating lottery ticket machines in post offices. [209809]

Mr. McFadden: The provision of lottery terminals in post offices is a commercial matter for Post Office Ltd and Camelot.

Lottery terminals are the property of Camelot, and as part of its licence it is bound to review all potential sites and to operate a fair policy on the roll-out and allocation of terminals, ensuring that a strict selection criteria is adhered to, and that one retailer is not unduly favoured over another.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mothers receive childcare allowance in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. [20921[illegible]]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent estimates of the average number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, by local authority and constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2006-07. Geographical analyses". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of training the children's workforce in line with the recommendations set out in the Sector Skills agreement issued by the Children's Workforce Development Council in December 2007. [211199]

Beverley Hughes: No estimate has yet been made of the training costs arising from the recommendations in CWDC's Sector Skills Agreement Gap Analysis Report.

Departmental Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons were for his Department's performance against each public service agreement target set in 2004 which it did not meet, as referred to in the Departmental Annual Report 2008. [211169]

Kevin Brennan: The Department published its Departmental Report on 19 May 2008 which included latest assessments against Spending Review 2004 PSA targets. Two target elements were reported as not met:

> PSA target 6 (element 1)—By 2006 85 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained until 2008.
>
> PSA target 7 (element 1)—By 2007 85 per cent. of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above in English, mathematics and ICT (80 per cent. in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008.

PSA target 6 (element 1) was first reported as not met in the Autumn Performance Report 2006 (CM 6992) which also included the following information on performance:

> Provisional 2005/06 results of Key Stage 2 tests show that 79 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or above in English (no change over 2004/05) and 76 per cent. achieved level 4 or above in mathematics (an increase of one percentage point over 2004/05).
>
> Although primary standards are now at their highest ever level, the headline Key Stage 2 targets have not been met.
>
> Compared to 1996/97, about 95,000 more 11-year-olds are now achieving the target level for their age in English and 83,000 more are doing so in mathematics. The 2005/06 results showed the largest increase in children achieving above the target level 4 in English since 2000.
>
> Since 1996/97, the increase in standards and in the quality of teaching and learning in schools has been dramatic and sustained. Ofsted have stated that teaching in primary schools has never been better and describes the current generation of newly-qualified teachers as the best trained ever.

PSA target 7 (element 1) was first reported as not met in the Autumn Performance Report 2007 (CM 7279) which also included the following information on performance:

> The 2006/07 provisional results of the National Curriculum Key Stage 3 tests show that 74 per cent. of 14-year-olds achieved level 5 or above in English, 76 per cent. achieved level 5 or above in mathematics, and 73 per cent. achieved level 5 or above in science. This represents an increase of three percentage points from the target's 2003/04 baseline in English, three percentage points from the target's 2003/04 baseline in mathematics, and seven percentage points from the target's 2003/04 baseline in science.
>
> Recent slow progress has meant the 2007 target has not been met. However, there has been some progress in 2006/07 with provisional results showing improvement in attainment in English, science and IT.
>
> The 2006/07 results mean that 95,000 additional pupils reached the expected level in English compared to 1997, with 95,000 more reaching the expected level in mathematics and 75,000 in science.
>
> To build on these results, the Making Good Progress pilot which started in September 2007 will help all children to progress well at school, giving the brightest pupils an opportunity to reach their full potential, and ensuring that those at risk of falling behind are identified and supported in their learning. A new secondary curriculum will be introduced from next year, which will give teachers more flexibility and provide additional time to help children who are at risk of falling behind to master the basics, as well as offering more stretching opportunities for those who excel.
>
> Tools, guidance and training on Assessing Pupil Progress have now been rolled out for reading, writing and mathematics; speaking and listening and science will follow over the next year. The effective tracking of pupil progress is the most common feature of successful schools, and these materials will support schools in doing that. Through the National Strategies, targeted intervention materials for pupils who fall behind is also continuing.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* private and voluntary independent and *(b)* maintained day nurseries there were in each year since 1997. [211168]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ownership of child care provision. The estimated number and proportion of full day care providers by type of ownership, from 2001, is shown in the following table. Data for previous years are not available.

Ownership of full day care provision

	2001		2003		2005		2006	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Private	6,300	81	7,700	78	6,750	59	8,300	65
Voluntary sector	400	5	900	9	2,300	20	3,000	24
Local authority	400	6	600	6	1,000	9	700	5
School/college	100	1	700	7	450	4	600	5
Other	700	9	400	4	750	6	300	2

Note:

Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Services: Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of new appliance chassis which will be procured for use by Fire and Rescue Services in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [210589]

Mr. Dhanda: Firebuy Ltd., the body responsible for establishing contracts for FRS national procurement, monitors the use of these arrangements. A framework contract for pumping appliances was let by Firebuy in April 2007. 77 orders were made from this contract in 2007-08 of which 47 are due for delivery during 2008-09. To date in 2008-09 a further 86 pumping appliances have been ordered from this contract, plus orders for 15 specialist appliances through other Firebuy framework contracts.

Fire Services: Uniforms

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of Fire and Rescue Services which have opted out of the Integrated Clothing Project element of the FireBuy scheme for 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [210588]

Mr. Dhanda: The contract for the Integrated Clothing Project has recently been signed between Firebuy Ltd. and Bristol Uniforms. We expect that a large number of fire and rescue authorities will use the contract when their current arrangements end. We know that some fire and rescue authorities are likely to seek agreement from CLG to go outside national arrangements for operational or other reasons. Firebuy will work with FRAs, where necessary, to assist them with the procurement process.

Home Information Packs

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to raise stakeholder and public awareness of home information packs over the next two years. [200333]

Caroline Flint: Along with the industry, we will continue to raise stakeholder and public awareness of Home Information Packs (HIPs) in the medium term, including through direct contact with key stakeholders, the HIPs website and other marketing activities.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to evaluate the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* public understanding of the revised home information pack scheme; and if she will make a statement. [201924]

Caroline Flint: The Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of Home Information Packs (HIPs). Along with the industry, we will continue to raise stakeholder and public awareness of HIPs in the medium term, including through direct contact with key stakeholders, the HIPs website and other marketing activities.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to make the home condition report a mandatory component of the home information pack in the event that the industry does not secure its inclusion by voluntary means. [207395]

Caroline Flint: The home condition report remains a valuable element of the home information pack. The Government will continue to work with stakeholders to make a success of the voluntary uptake of the HCR. The mandatory option has not been ruled out should this voluntary approach not work.

Housing: Low Incomes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of time to process a *(a)* Home2own, *(b)* Homebuy and *(c)* first time buyer's initiative application was in the last 12 months. [201571]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold data centrally on the average length of time it takes to process a Home2own, HomeBuy and First-Time Buyer's Initiative application in the last 12 months. This can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

HomeBuy Agents who administer the HomeBuy scheme and the First-Time Buyer's Initiative are required to send applicants confirmation of their eligibility status within eight working days of initial receipt of a fully completed application form.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications there were to *(a)* Home2own, *(b)* Homebuy and *(c)* the First-time Buyers initiative in each year since each was established. [201651]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 25 April 2008]*: We do not hold data centrally on the number of applications that have been received by Home2own, HomeBuy and First-Time Buyer's initiative, since each scheme was established. This can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Local Government Finance: Lancashire

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central Government grant financing to *(a)* Hyndburn Borough Council and *(b)* Rossendale Borough Council was in each year from 2002-03 to 2008-09. [210062]

John Healey: The central Government grant financing to Hyndburn borough council and Rossendale borough council from 2002-03 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

£000

	Hyndburn borough council	*Rossendale Borough Council*
Outturn		
2002-03	8,447	5,039
2003-04	9,602	5,839
2004-05	10,107	8,078
2005-06	10,530	6,325
2006-07	11,650	7,992
Budget		
2002-03	8,363	5,015
2003-04	9,698	6,278
2004-05	9,370	5,363
2005-06	9,385	5,619
2006-07	10,775	6,627
2007-08	10,808	6,900
2008-09	11,379	6,823

Note:
Budget figures can differ from outturn figures because not all grants are known with certainty at the beginning of the financial year.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) and Revenue Account (RA) budget returns

Central Government grant financing is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), ie revenue grants paid for a council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (ie where funding is not for an authority's core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authority's housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where an authority is simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Regional Planning and Development

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for the implementation of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration is. [210616]

John Healey: There is no separate budget for the implementation of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration. Full details of the Department's expenditure in 2007-08 can be found in Annex B to its 2008 Annual Report: 'Community, Opportunity, Prosperity' (Cm 3794).

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on implementing the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration *(a)* in total and *(b)* for (i) staffing costs, (ii) administrative costs, (iii) communication costs and (iv) the costs of public consultation. [210617]

John Healey: Given the wide-ranging nature of the proposals contained in the review, much of the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The consultation document 'Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration' includes an impact assessment of the potential cost of the proposed local authority economic assessment duty, and further assessments will be carried out of the impact of the legislation the Government intend to bring forward.

The costs of public consultation incurred to date have been:

	£
Web publication of SNR issues paper December 2007	7,000
Web publication of Prosperous Places March 2008	12,000
Eight regional consultation events May 2008	40,000
Analysis of responses to Prosperous Places so far	39,000
Total	98,000

These costs have been shared between this Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* written consultations, *(b)* consultation roadshows and *(c)* stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years. [205840]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The expenditure on written consultations in each of the last three years is as follows:

2005-06

The 1954 Hague convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its two protocols of 1954 and 1999

The BBC Charter Review Green Paper—A strong BBC, independent of Government

Consultation paper on a cultural test for British Films

National lottery shares 2009 consultation

Review of the Marine Historic Environment Working Groups

Total cost: £38,610

2006-07

Welcome Legacy: A Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games—a consultation

Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums

Heritage Protection for the 21st Century—White Paper

Review of the Marine Historic Environment Working Groups

Total cost: £54,579

2007-08

All consultations web-based

Cost: £ zero spend

(b) No consultation roadshows have been held in the last three years.

(c) The spend on stakeholder focus groups in each of the last three years is as follows:

2005-06

BBC Charter Review: Focus on the BBC Trust and the enforcement and collection of the licence fee

Attitudes towards allocation of lottery funds to arts and film, heritage and sport

Heritage Protection Review seminars

Total cost: £94,279

2006-07

Cost : £ zero spend

2007-08

Cost: £ zero spend

2007-08

Cost: £ zero spend

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Piranha V vehicles have been built and subjected to mine explosion tests of the type to which US candidates for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected programme have been exposed; and if he will publish the results. [208678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The FRES Utility Vehicle protection requirements include those based upon latest Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and mine explosion threat assessments. The down selection of Piranha 5 as the provisionally preferred design for the FRES Utility Vehicle included an assessment of the current design and the ability to develop the design to meet the FRES protection requirements. Subject to Piranha 5 being confirmed as the preferred design, further work will be undertaken during the demonstration phase to confirm that Piranha 5 protection capabilities will meet the FRES requirement. This will include actual IED and mine explosion tests. None of the results of these assessments will be published as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces and commercial interests.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* CRVT, *(b)* Saxon, *(c)* Warrior and *(d)* Challenger vehicles are (i) in service, (ii) fit for purpose and (iii) out of service. [209523]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	In service (total fleet)	*Fit for purpose (currently available) (percentage)*	*Out of service (not available) (percentage)*
CVR(T)	1,196	58	42
Saxon	147	97	3
Warrior	793	74	26
Challenger	345	95	5

'In service' has been defined as the total number in the vehicle fleet. 'Fit for purpose' has been defined as those that are available for use. This includes vehicles awaiting minor repairs and those currently in transit to operational theatres. 'Out of service' has been defined as those vehicles within the total fleet that are currently unavailable, including vehicles undergoing major repair, planned re-fit or awaiting a decision on disposal. This category includes vehicles destroyed on operations.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the interoperability of the Future Rapid Effects System and the equivalent capabilities of other European countries. [210169]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has provisionally selected Piranha as the preferred FRES Utility Vehicle design. Our assessment is that Piranha 5 has the potential to meet the programme's interoperability requirements. This includes the requirement to be interoperable with NATO and other allies.

In the future, selection of designs to meet the requirements of the other vehicle families will similarly take account of interoperability.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent planned in-service date for the Future Rapid Effects System is. [210170]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In common with all defence equipment programmes, the in-service dates for the Future Rapid Effect System family of armoured vehicles will be fixed at the main investment decisions. It is our policy not to release or discuss in-service dates ahead of the main investment decision.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions have taken place with General Dynamics on where the Future Rapid Effects System will be assembled; [210171]

(2) what requirements have been placed on General Dynamics to use the UK supply-chain of small and medium enterprises in the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [210172]

(3) what assessment has been made of when General Dynamics will have a demonstration vehicle ready for the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [210173]

(4) whether General Dynamics have specified a platform weight for the Future Rapid Effects System. [210174]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Where FRES vehicles will be assembled has been the subject of discussions with all the companies participating in the initial wave of competitions to select the Utility Vehicle (UV) Design, the UV Integrator and the System of Systems Integrator. The specific provision in the FRES Acquisition Strategy covering vehicle manufacture also featured in the documentation issued to the companies involved.

There have been no further discussions with General Dynamics on where vehicles will be assembled since the announcement on 8 May 2008 that Piranha 5 had been selected as the provisionally preferred UV Design.

No specific requirements have been placed on General Dynamics to use the UK supply-chain of small and medium enterprises in the Future Rapid Effect System programme. Promoting the use of UK-based small and medium enterprises where they add value to the programme is, however, clearly desirable.

The assessment of when a demonstration vehicle would be available was an area of focus during the Utility Vehicle trials in 2007, as was specifying a platform weight for the Future Rapid Effect System. Our assessment is continuing and these areas will remain a focus during the forthcoming programme of risk reduction work that will address a number of commercial, programme and technical issues.

Only when the MOD is satisfied on all the issues being addressed during the programme of risk reduction work, including when a demonstration vehicle will be available and a platform weight specified, will General Dynamics achieve preferred bidder status and these decisions will be made.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is a requirement of the Future Rapid Effects System programme that it should be able to be transported in an aircraft. [210175]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the Future Rapid Effects System programme. [210176]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Expenditure to 31 March 2008 on the Future Rapid Effect System since the launch of the assessment phase in 2004 is £130 million.

Bombs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice he received from the military on methods of disposing of cluster munitions before taking the decision to sign the Dublin Convention. [210665]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministers did not receive military advice on methods of disposing of munitions prior to the Dublin Conference.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of disposing of the UK's cluster munitions. [210695]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are in the process of implementing the provisions of the adopted convention on the UK's cluster munitions and assessing their likely disposal costs. As soon as they become known I will inform the House.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure on external consultancy was in 2007-08. [210711]

Derek Twigg: The MOD's external assistance expenditure figures for 2007-08 are currently being compiled.

It is planned that they will be placed in the Library of the House before summer recess.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 795W, on Departmental databases, if he will list *(a)* the companies and *(b)* the categories of personal information involved. [199949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence, including its agencies, has contracted the following US-based companies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens, in each case the type of personal information is indicated, both in general terms and by Data Protection Act category.

Company	*Type of data*	*DPA category*
Human Resources Technologies Inc. (Virginia)	Information about Royal Navy members and the wider RN community	Personal data (non-sensitive)
SuperLetter.Com Inc (Florida)	Details about users (serving personnel and their family and friends) of e-bluey service	Personal data (non-sensitive)
Galileo International LLC (Colorado)	Traveller details	Personal data (non-sensitive)
Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Minnesota)	Traveller details	Personal data (non-sensitive)

My answer of 1 April 2008 referred only to the first of these service providers. Since then an in-depth exercise to carry out a review of the Department's holdings of personal data has been completed and a further three service providers (SuperLetter.Com, Galileo and Carlson Wagonlit Travel) have been confirmed.

The Department, including its agencies, has contracted with a number of UK based subsidiaries of USA registered service providers over the last five years. All those whose details are known centrally following the recent review exercise are listed as follows.

Company	*Type of data*	*DPA category*
EDS UK Ltd.	Service personnel HR and training data. Service recruit and potential recruit data.	Sensitive personal data
IBM UK Ltd.	MOD civilian HR data.	Sensitive personal data
FitLinxx UK Ltd.	Fitness training programmes for RAF personnel and records workout sessions.	Sensitive personal data
Rackspace Ltd.	Service personnel and family/friend data. Army and RN Cadet information. Civilian recruit information.	Sensitive personal data

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date Sea Dart missiles were removed from *(a)* HMS Exeter and *(b)* HMS Southampton. [210668]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Exeter had her Sea Dart missiles offloaded in July 2007 and HMS Southampton's were removed January 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operations *(a)* HMS Exeter and *(b)* HMS Southampton have taken part in over the last six months. [210669]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the last six months HMS Exeter has been deployed on a NATO led Operation Active Endeavour in the Eastern Mediterranean. HMS Southampton has not taken part in any operations in the last six months.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days *(a)* HMS Exeter and *(b)* HMS Southampton were (i) out to sea and (ii) undergoing maintenance in the last six months. [210670]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 10 December 2007 and 10 June 2008 HMS Exeter was out at sea for 53 days and undergoing maintenance for 20 days. HMS Southampton was out at sea for 34 days and undergoing maintenance for 46 days. The remainder of their time was spent alongside on port visits, leave, trials and work up periods.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects Sea Dart missiles to be returned to *(a)* HMS Southampton and *(b)* HMS Exeter. [210672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. HMS Exeter and HMS Southampton continue to be armed with weapon system capabilities required to meet their tasking.

Warships: Guided Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the operational purposes of the Royal Navy's Sea Dart missiles are. [210671]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Sea Dart is a medium range air defence missile. The principal operational purpose of missile is to engage and destroy attacking enemy aircraft or missiles. The secondary operational purpose is toengage and destroy enemy ships.

Navy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the Royal Navy's monthly Sitrep for each month since January 2008. [210662]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The naval monthly sitreps (Situation Reports) are designed for internal circulation to naval requirement managers, giving a range of statistics about strengths, inflows and outflows of Naval staff by various dimensions such as specialisation and rank.

The numbers in the reports are not fully rounded, with numbers under 10 being unrounded. Because this might allow personally identifying information to be revealed, only fully rounded versions can be placed on the Library.

A fully rounded version of the main Sitrep for December 2007 is available in the Library of the House. I shall place a copy of the fully rounded version of the latest edition (May 2008) in the Library of the House, however, previous editions could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of QinetiQ's consultations on Nimrod were over the last three years. [209727]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of work relating to Nimrod aircraft carried out by QinetiQ over the last three financial years was £26.1 million.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average time taken for the decommissioning of nuclear submarines is. [209578]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The submarine decommissioning process is defined as starting when a vessel leaves service with the Royal Navy and concludes when the disposal process is complete, including both the transfer of radioactive waste into long-term storage at a National Waste Management Facility and the disposal of the hull.

No UK nuclear submarine has completed this process as all 14 ex-Royal Navy nuclear submarines are currently in afloat storage at either HM Naval Base Devonport or Rosyth Dockyard. It is not therefore possible to provide an average figure for the time taken for submarine decommissioning.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safety checks are in place to monitor current submarines in decommission. [209579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Submarines that are being decommissioned are subject to regular safety checks as laid down in their respective safety cases; these are controlled in accordance with the safety management arrangements of the sites at which they are stored. These arrangements are approved by the relevant nuclear regulators. Checks include a weekly watertight integrity check and radiological surveys conducted at a periodicity ranging from a month to a year.

Safety checks form part of a broader maintenance regime which includes yearly scheduled maintenance and docking every 10 to 15 years to allow a complete survey and re-preservation package to ensure further safe afloat storage until final disposal.

Wines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated value of his Department's wine stores is. [209581]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not MOD policy to hold stores of wine. Small amounts that are purchased from public funds, as required, for specific functions as part of official entertainment are not accounted for centrally, and their total value could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD's own regulations on the provision of official entertainment are contained in JSP 462 (Financial Management Policy Manual), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Committee of Departmental Green Ministers

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reasons the Committee of departmental Green Ministers no longer holds meetings. [210707]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1544-45W.

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in 2007-08; [206761]

(2) how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* single parents were unemployed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in 2007-08; [206775]

(3) how many single parents were in work in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in 2007-08. [206774]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary questions asking: how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in work in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in 2007-08; how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* single parents were unemployed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in 2007-08; and how many single parents were in work in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in 2007-08. (206761, 206775 and 206774).

The Office for National Statistics compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. Estimates for single parents are compiled from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of men and women aged 16 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK who were in employment in 2007. Table 2, attached, shows the number of men and women aged 16 and over, resident in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK who were unemployed in 2007. Estimates are obtained from the APS for the 12 month period ending in September 2007, which is the most recent period for which estimates are available. Estimates for the North East and UK have been provided from the APS for consistency with the estimates for Jarrow and South Tyneside. These will differ from figures published in the Labour Market First Release which are based on Labour Force Survey data.

Table 3, attached, shows the number of single parents aged 16 plus, with dependent children, resident in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK who were in employment and unemployed in 2007. Estimates are obtained from the LFS household dataset for April-June 2007, which is the most recent period for which estimates are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, LFS household and APS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. The LFS household datasets are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas APS datasets are consistent with the latest population figures, so the two are not directly comparable. LFS household datasets reweighted to the latest population estimates are currently expected to be available in summer 2008.

Table 1: Number[1] of persons employed aged 16 plus by gender and region

		Thousand
	12 months ending September 2007	
	Male	*Female*
Jarrow	20	17
South Tyneside	34	30
North East	618	545
UK	15,691	13,351

[1] Weighted to 2007 population estimates. *Source:* Annual Population survey.

Table 2: Number[1] of persons unemployed[2] aged 16 plus by gender and region

		Thousand
	12 months ending September 2007	
	Male	*Female*
Jarrow	1	1
South Tyneside	4	2
North East	49	30
UK	918	685

[1] Weighted to 2007 population estimates.

[2] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Source:

Annual Population survey.

Table 3: Number[1] of employed and unemployed[2] lone parents aged 16 plus with dependent children[3]

		Thousand
	April-June 2007, not seasonally adjusted	
	Employed	*Unemployed*
Jarrow	1	[4]
South Tyneside	2	[4]
North East	44	4
UK	1,049	113

[1] Estimates are weighted to the 2003 population estimates.

[2] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

[3] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

[4] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.

Source:

LFS Household datasets.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* employment rate and *(b)* the number in employment of the working age population was for (i) the UK population of working age, (ii) foreign nationals of working age, (iii) UK nationals of working age and (iv) UK-born workers of working age in each year since 1997 according to the Office for National Statistics' reweighted statistics; what the difference in figures for each such category was as a result of the reweighting; and what the figures were in each quarter since 1 January 2005. [208688]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what a) the employment rate and b) the number in employment of the working age population was for (i) the UK population of working age, (ii) foreign nationals of working age, (iii) UK nationals of working age, (iv) UK born workers of working age in each year since 1997 according to the Office for National Statistics' reweighted statistics; what the difference in figures for each such category was as a result of the reweighting; and what the figures were in each quarter since 1 January 2005. [208688]

The National Statistics approach to presenting the number of migrant workers employed in the UK was, on 20 May 2008, brought into line with the definitions used more widely for Labour market statistics and is now based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, aged 16 or over, and in employment. However, because you have requested that the estimates are provided on the basis of working age, nationality and UK born, your question has been answered on this basis.

Table 1 presents figures for the April to June quarters from 1997 to 2004, for the UK, Non UK and total working age population, by nationality and country of birth. These figures are provided using the population estimates published in 2003 and 2007. Table 1 also shows the same information for each quarter from January to March 2005 to January to March 2008. Table 2 shows the differences between the 2003 and 2007 weighted figures provided in Table 1.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: People in employment and employment rate of working age[1] by nationality and UK born[2] in the United Kingdom—not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Total population				*UK nationals*			
	2003 weights[3]		*2007 weights[3]*		*2003 weights[3]*		*2007 weights[3]*	
	Levels	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*
April-June 1997	25,544	73	25,631	73	24,609	73	24,686	73
April-June 1998	25,752	73	25,858	73	[4]	[4]	24,821	74
April-June 1999	26,060	74	26,206	74	25,084	74	25,212	74
April-June 2000	26,387	74	26,564	74	[4]	[4]	25,456	75
April-June 2001	26,607	74	26,810	74	25,452	75	25,629	75
April-June 2002	26,735	74	26,967	74	25,499	75	25,701	75
April-June 2003	26,935	75	27,201	75	25,614	75	25,843	75
April-June 2004	27,015	74	27,354	74	25,585	75	25,883	75
January-March 2005	27,148	75	27,591	75	25,607	75	25,996	75
April-June 2005	27,136	74	27,607	75	25,615	75	26,032	75
July-September 2005	27,386	75	27,900	75	25,828	76	26,276	76
October-December 2005	27,207	75	27,741	75	25,587	75	26,048	75
January-March 2006	27,182	74	27,733	74	25,491	75	25,969	75
April-June 2006	27,187	74	27,775	74	25,430	75	25,938	75
July-September 2006	27,384	75	28,000	75	25,554	75	26,085	75
October-December 2006	27,323	75	27,957	75	25,437	75	25,991	75
January-March 2007	27,126	74	27,776	74	25,223	75	25,794	75
April-June 2007	27,226	74	27,895	74	25,205	75	25,784	75
July-September 2007	27,444	75	28,146	75	25,414	75	26,023	75
October-December 2007	27,513	75	28,232	75	25,428	75	26,050	76
January-March 2008	[4]	[4]	28,131	75	[4]	[4]	25,870	75

Thousand and percentage

	Non UK nationals				*UK born*			
	2003 weights[3]		*2007 weights[3]*		*2003 weights[3]*		*2007 weights[3]*	
	Levels	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*
April-June 1997	934	60	943	60	23,638	74	23,710	74
April-June 1998	[4]	[4]	1,036	60	[4]	[4]	23,845	74
April-June 1999	976	60	993	60	24,056	75	24,173	75
April-June 2000	[4]	[4]	1,108	60	[4]	[4]	24,438	75
April-June 2001	1,153	62	1,179	62	24,431	75	24,594	75
April-June 2002	1,234	62	1,264	62	24,426	75	24,611	75
April-June 2003	1,321	63	1,358	63	24,473	76	24,692	76
April-June 2004	1,429	65	1,469	65	24,471	76	24,762	76
January-March 2005	1,541	66	1,594	66	24,472	76	24,851	76
April-June 2005	1,518	64	1,572	64	24,444	76	24,849	76
July-September 2005	1,558	65	1,623	65	24,615	76	25,052	76
October-December 2005	1,619	66	1,692	66	24,376	76	24,825	76
January-March 2006	1,689	67	1,764	67	24,261	75	24,724	75
April-June 2006	1,756	68	1,837	68	24,177	75	24,670	75
July-September 2006	1,828	69	1,913	69	24,332	76	24,849	76
October-December 2006	1,882	69	1,962	69	24,207	75	24,744	76
January-March 2007	1,899	67	1,978	67	23,978	75	24,529	75
April-June 2007	2,014	68	2,103	68	23,948	75	24,508	75
July-September 2007	2,020	68	2,113	69	24,104	76	24,694	76
October-December 2007	2,077	68	2,173	68	24,111	76	24,718	76
January-March 2008	[4]	[4]	2,254	69	[4]	[4]	24,547	75

[1] Working age is 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.

[2] The LFS may undercount the certain groups because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites)

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long term migrants (staying 12 months or more)

[3] The 2003 population weights were used to weight LFS until 14 May 2008. The 2007 weights have been used to weight the LFS from 14 May 2008.

[4] Estimates are not available for this period.

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Differences as a result of reweighting, for people in employment and employment rate of working age[1] by nationality and UK born[2] in the United Kingdom as a result of reweighting—not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Total population differences		*UK nationals differences*		*Non UK nationals differences*		*UK born differences*	
	Levels	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*	*Levels*	*Rate*
April-June 1997	87	0.0	77	0.0	10	-0.1	72	0.0
April-June 1998	106	0.0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
April-June 1999	145	0.0	128	0.0	17	0.1	117	0.0
April-June 2000	177	0.0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
April-June 2001	203	0.0	177	0.0	27	0.1	163	0.0
April-June 2002	232	0.0	202	0.1	30	0.1	185	0.1
April-June 2003	266	0.0	229	0.0	38	0.1	219	0.0
April-June 2004	338	0.0	299	0.0	40	0.0	291	0.0
January-March 2005	444	0.0	389	0.1	53	0.0	379	0.0
April-June 2005	471	0.0	417	0.0	54	0.1	405	0.0
July-September 2005	513	0.1	448	0.1	65	0.2	437	0.1
October-December 2005	534	0.1	461	0.1	73	0.1	449	0.1
January-March 2006	552	0.0	477	0.0	74	0.1	463	0.0
April-June 2006	588	0.1	508	0.1	80	0.2	493	0.1
July-September 2006	616	0.1	531	0.1	85	0.3	517	0.1
October-December 2006	634	0.1	553	0.1	80	0.1	537	0.1
January-March 2007	650	0.1	571	0.1	79	0.2	551	0.1
April-June 2007	668	0.1	579	0.1	89	0.2	561	0.1
July-September 2007	702	0.1	609	0.1	93	0.2	590	0.1
October-December 2007	719	0.1	622	0.1	96	0.2	606	0.1
January-March 2008	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—

[1] Working age is 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.

[2] The LFS may undercount the certain groups because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites)

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long term migrants (staying 12 months or more)

[3] The 2003 population weights were used to weight LFS until 14 May 2008. The 2007 weights have been used to weight the LFS from 14 May 2008.

[4] Estimates are not available for this period

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Epilepsy

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have died from an epilepsy-related cause in each of the last 10 years. [209817]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) children and (b) adults have died from an epilepsy-related cause in each of the last 10 years. (209817)

The most recent figures available are for deaths registered in 2006. The table below contains the number of deaths which were certified as due to epilepsy, in children aged under 16 and adults aged 16 and over, from 1997 to 2006 in England and Wales.

Number of deaths from epilepsy[1] by age, England and Wales, 1997-2006[2]

	0 to 15 years[3]	*16 years and over*
1997	47	761
1998	42	815
1999	38	828
2000	35	804
2001	48	966
2002	46	907
2003	48	1,027
2004	48	932
2005	44	1,017
2006	42	976

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 345 for years up to and including 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes G40-G41 from 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Excludes deaths at ages under 28 days.

Life Expectancy

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which 100 local authority wards have the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest (i) male and (ii) female life expectancy. [210022]

Mr. Watson: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking which 100 local authority wards have the (a) highest and (b) lowest (i) male and (ii) female life expectancy. I am replying in her absence. (210022)

The tables attached provide the figures for period life expectancy at birth, for wards with the 100 highest and 100 lowest life expectancies for males (tables 1 and 2) and females (tables 3 and 4), in England and Wales, 1999-2003 (the only period available). Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

These figures are experimental statistics—that is, statistics which are in a testing or consultation phase and are not fully developed—and should therefore be treated with caution. Life expectancies for wards can be based on very small numbers of deaths and small populations. They may therefore be subject to large variations even when aggregated over five years, as shown by the width of the '95 per cent. confidence interval' in the tables. The precise ranking of wards may therefore be due partly to chance, as are the extreme results of the wards with the highest female life expectancies.

Lone Parents: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and (b) Leeds West constituency. [209211]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in *(a)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. (209211)

The number of lone parent families in the UK with children under 16 can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The table below shows these estimates for Leeds Metropolitan District and Leeds West constituency.

	Number of lone parents with children under 16 (Thousand)
Leeds metropolitan district	20
Leeds West constituency	3

Source: LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted

Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what international *(a)* immigration, *(b)* emigration and *(c)* net migration was for (i) each Government Office region in England, (ii) each local authority area in England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Scotland in each five year period since 1987; and what proportion per 1,000 population these figures represent; [205759]

(2) what net international migration was for those living in the UK and born *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* elsewhere in the periods (i) 1987 to 1997 and (ii) 1997 to the most recent year for which figures are available; [205785]

(3) how many and what proportion of those immigrating to the UK were employed in manual and clerical occupations prior to arrival in the UK in each year since 1997; [205786]

(4) what proportion of the resident population was born abroad in *(a)* 1987, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of future trends in the proportion of the population born abroad; [205790]

(5) what the net change in the number of foreign-born residents in the UK was between *(a)* 1987 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and the most recent year for which figures are available; and which 10 countries were the most frequent countries of origin of foreign-born UK residents in each such period. [205791]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions on international migration and foreign born residents in the UK. The following questions are all answered by this letter:

What international (a) immigration, (b) emigration and (c) net migration was for (i) each government office region in England, (ii) each local authority area in England, (iii) Wales and (iv) Scotland in each five year period since 1987; and what proportion per 1,000 population these figures represent. (205759)

What net international migration was for those living in the UK and born (a) in the UK and (b) elsewhere in the periods (i) 1987 to 1997 and (ii) 1997 to the most recent year for which figures are available. (205785)

How many and what proportion of those immigrating to the UK were employed in manual and clerical occupations prior to arrival in the UK in each year since 1997. (205786)

What proportion of the resident population was born abroad in (a) 1987, (b) 1997 and (c) the most recent year for which figures are available; and what forecast has been made of future trends in the proportion of the population to have been born abroad. (205790)

What the net change in the number of foreign born residents in the UK was between (a) 1987 and 1997 and (b) 1997 and the most recent year for which figures are available; and which 10 countries were the most frequent countries of origin in each such period. (205791)

Tables A1, A2, and A3 give figures for Parliamentary Question number 205759 between mid-1986 and mid-2006, the latest year for which figures are available based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The international immigration and emigration data for local authorities are only available from mid-2001 onwards. The footnotes to the tables provide the basis for the figures. (205759)

Table B gives an estimate of net international migration by country of birth (UK and elsewhere) between 1987 and 2006. Data from 1991 to 2006 are based on Total International Migration (TIM) whilst data from 1987 to 1990 are based solely on the IPS, as estimates of TIM are not available prior to 1991. TIM is the measure of long term international migration introduced from

1991 and which is based mainly on data from the IPS supplemented with other data and adjustments for people not counted by the IPS. (205785)

The number and proportion of immigrants to the UK employed in manual and clerical occupations prior to their migration between 1997 and 2006 is shown in Table C, based on TIM. (205786)

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that 7 per cent of the UK population was born abroad in 1997, and 11 per cent of the UK population was born abroad in 2007, the latest year for which figures are available from the LFS. No comparable estimates are available for 1987 as prior to 1992 the LFS was not conducted throughout the year, and thus it is not possible to provide an average over four quarters for 1987. No projection has been made of future trends in the proportion of the population to have been born abroad. (205790)

Between 1997 and 2007 there was an increase of 2,323,000 UK residents who were born abroad. Table D gives the ten most common countries of birth of foreign born UK residents in 1997 and 2007. No comparable estimates are available for 1987. (205791)

Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 49W, on migration, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the direct and indirect contribution of net migration to population growth by *(a)* 2031 and *(b)* 2056; and what proportion of total population growth each figure represents. [208820]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate has been made of the direct and indirect contribution of net migration to population growth by (a) 2031 and (b) 2056; and what proportion of total population growth each figure represents. (208820)

Net migration affects population growth both through the immediate direct impact of migrants themselves and the indirect impact through future births and deaths of migrants.

As part of the latest (2006-based) national population projections from ONS, a full analysis has been made of the impact of the assumed level of net migration on population growth in the period to 2031. This is available at

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/mignote.asp.

The following table summarises the results and shows corresponding figures for the period to 2056.

Projected population growth by component, United Kingdom, 2006-56

Million

	Between 2006 and 2031	*Between 2006 and 2056*
Total population increase	11	18
Resulting from:		
Assumed net migration	5	10
Natural change assuming no migration	[illegible]	1
Additional natural change from assumed level of net migration	2	[illegible]

As previously advised in my replies to earlier PQs from you (207695 and 177459), the underlying assumptions for the projections are demographic trend based and should not be seen as predictions. Long-term projections should be treated with particular caution. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward.

Tenants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) 20, (ii) 22, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years old who lived with their parents in (A) 1985, (B) 1990, (C) 1995, (D) 2000, (E) 2005 and (F) 2007. [208791]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimates has been made of, the proportion of (a) men and (b) women aged (i) 20, (ii) 22, (iii) 25 and (iv) 30 years old who lived with their parents in (A) 1985, (B) 1990, (C) 1995, (D) 2000, (E) 2005 and (F) 2007. (208791)

Information on adults living with their parents is available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is provided in the table below. Adults who live with their parents with a partner or child are not included as living with their parents as they form a separate family. Since data are not available for all the requested years before 2001, two alternative years are provided to present a time series.

Proportion of individuals who are living with their parents, by sex and selected ages, UK

Sex	*Age*	*1997*	*2001*	*2005*	*2007*
Male	20	68	68	70	65
	22	57	56	60	56
	25	36	35	34	37
	30	13	12	14	13
Female	20	49	50	50	52
	22	36	34	35	39
	25	19	18	21	21
	30	5	5	4	5

Source:
LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted

Transport: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what figures the Office for National Statistics holds on the number of people in Wales who live more than two miles away from a bus route or a railway station. [209903]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question regarding what figures the Office for National Statistics holds on the number of people in Wales who live more than two miles away from a bus route or a railway station. I am replying in her absence. (209903)

The Office for National Statistics does not hold the requested information, but the Department for Transport are responsible for the National Travel Survey which may provide some of the requested information.

Unemployment: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of households in Suffolk had no one in full-time employment in each of the last five years. [209388]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many and what proportion of households in Suffolk have no-one in full-time employment in each of the last 5 years. (209388)

Estimates in the attached table are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the "Work and worklessness among households" First Release, which is available on the web at: http: /www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf

The households are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series.

Estimates are based on working age households, which are households that include at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number and proportion of working-age[1] households in Suffolk where no-one is in full-time employment 2003-07, April to June of each year

	Levels (Thousand)	Percentage[2]
2003	36	21
2004	34	20
2005	31	17
2006	44	21
2007	50	24

[1] A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age, that is a woman aged 16-59 or a man aged 16-64.

[2] In calculating percentages, households with unknown economic status have been excluded.

Note:

1. Estimates are weighted to the 2003 population estimates.
2. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

LFS household datasets.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the cost of running the provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gar was in each of the last five years; [209681]

(2) what the objectives are of the provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gar; how many personnel the team has; and what the team's performance against its objectives has been over the last five years. [209682]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* I am not able to provide figures for the cost of running the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) because we estimate that to locate, retrieve and extract such information would involve disproportionate cost. The UK employs a broad range of staff in support of the government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. Over 100 civilian staff in Kabul and over 40 staff in Helmand are employed from across the Government, including the Stabilisation Unit, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit. Their roles include work in governance, stabilisation, reconstruction and development, security sector reform and counter narcotics.

✓ The PRT in Helmand is focused on developing Afghan local capacity in development, security and governance, and is helping administer over £36 million the UK plans to spend towards the province's reconstruction this financial year. Since the UK took over the PRT in May 2006 we have seen early progress on these three fronts, with PRT officials delivering valuable assistance in a challenging environment. Since May 2006, the PRT has implemented 247 quick-impact projects valued at £18 million. This has supported a number of building projects (including schools, parks and police stations), police training and women's rights projects. DFID has also committed £10 million per year over three years (2006-09) to support the government of Afghanistan's long-term development programmes in Helmand.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the policy of his Department to release the home addresses of *(a)* senior and *(b)* middle-ranking officials, if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what assessment he has made of the implications for personal security resulting from the release of such data. [207215]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not generally release the home addresses of officials for reasons of privacy and security. If asked for this information under the Freedom of Information Act, the Department would deal with requests on a case by case basis, applying appropriate exemptions if it is necessary and appropriate to do so.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what hourly rate his Department has agreed for the payment of Jonathan Sumption QC in relation to his work for the Department on the legal proceedings brought by Mr. Stuart Wheeler. [207717]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The Government always ensure that they are represented at the appropriate level and secure an hourly rate which represents value for money for the tax payer. The Government are very confident of the strength of their case and, in responding to this action, will apply to recover its costs from the applicant.

Diplomatic Service: Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of heads of mission employed by his Department speak the language of the country to which they are accredited; and if he will make a statement. [209383]

David Miliband: 99 per cent. (101 out of 102 missions in countries where English is not widely spoken) of heads of mission employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office speak the language of the country to which they are accredited, with varying degrees of fluency.

Eastern Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of proposals for the appointment of a UN High Level special adviser on human rights for Eastern Congo; and what reports he has received on progress towards establishment of the post. [209412]

Meg Munn: The Government are fully supportive of proposals for the appointment of a special adviser on human rights for Eastern Congo to monitor commitments made under Article 3 of the Goma Agreement. Officials are taking this forward with their international partners and with the Congolese. We believe that any such position or mechanism should be part of the Congolese Government's post-Goma machinery, the "Amani programme", and are working with Congolese officials to take this forward.

Eurojust

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Members of the European Parliament on the future of Eurojust; and if he will make a statement. [208736]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

Home Office Ministers have regular contact with Members of the European Parliament (MEP) to discuss the full range of JHA business. In relation to the future development of Eurojust, my officials briefed UK MEPs on the Government's position on the draft Council Decision on the strengthening of Eurojust in October 2007 and May 2008. The opinion of the European Parliament on that proposal is expected during the plenary session of 16-19 June 2008. In relation to the Government's position on the future development of Eurojust, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1564W.

Kashmir: Cemeteries

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of India on the removal of bodies from mass graves in Indian-held Kashmir. [209967]

Dr. Howells: We have not raised the removal of bodies from mass graves in Indian administered Kashmir with the Government of India. However, we have called for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and remain concerned over reports of human rights violations, including continuing allegations of human rights violations by Indian security forces.

Kashmir: Human Rights

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of India on the human rights situation in Indian-held Kashmir in the last 12 months. [209968]

Dr. Howells: We continue to raise our concerns over alleged human rights violations in Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control, including with the Government of India. Human rights issues in India, including in relation to Indian administered Kashmir, were raised at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in March. We have called for an end to all external support for violence in Kashmir and an improvement in the human rights situation.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what charge is made to British nationals applying for a standard UK passport at each British consular post. [210855]

Meg Munn: The charge for a standard UK passport at each consular post overseas is currently £119.00. Fees are set in sterling and collected overseas in local currency.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation and level of stability in Sudan, with particular reference to the north of Sudan and Khartoum and Omdurman. [208886]

Meg Munn: Calm has returned to Omdurman and Khartoum after the attack by the Justice and Equality Movement on 10 May. Darfur remains unstable and we advise against all but essential travel to the region. We are telling both the Government of Sudan and the rebels that there can be no military solution to the Darfur conflict and all sides must engage constructively in the UN-African Union led mediation process which, as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, the UK stands ready to support.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission research into the number of displaced Darfurians not included in the recent national census in Sudan and its effect on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [209374]

Meg Munn: Enumeration for the first national census since 1993 took place between 22 April and 6 May. The UN Population Fund will assess the extent of coverage, including of Darfurians, once the census questionnaires have been returned. Full census results are not expected before November 2008.

The UK is a member of the Monitoring and Observation Commission which played a key role in the formation of a census monitoring team. The UK also funded consultants who coordinated the training and deployment of the monitoring team.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made on the effects of the pattern of distribution of food and medicines in Zimbabwe on the forthcoming presidential elections in that country. [208455]

Meg Munn: We express our concerns about the worsening humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, including the distribution of food and medicines, to African leaders and others in the international community, at every available opportunity. The UK will continue to support the Zimbabwean people. We provided £45 million last year supporting the poorest and most vulnerable Zimbabweans, including helping to feed up to 3 million people and providing treatment for more than 30,000 HIV/AIDS patients.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many spontaneous abortions there were in each year since 1990, broken down by *(a)* length of gestation of the pregnancy, *(b)* age of the woman and *(c)* health authority. [209095]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* molar root treatments, *(b)* crown fittings, *(c)* simple denture fittings, *(d)* full denture fittings, *(e)* cobalt chrome denture fittings and *(f)* extractions there were in each of the last five financial years. [209200]

Ann Keen: This information could be provided in the form requested only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available is set out as follows.

Information on the number of claims including a crown and an extraction, for general dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS) for the years ending 31 March 2005 and 31 March 2006 are given in Annex D of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England 31 March 2006' report.

This report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Information on the incidence of certain treatments (including root-fillings, crowns, partial dentures, full dentures and extractions) was collected from a sample of courses of treatment (CoTs), for 2003-04 and the first four months of 2007-08. This information is shown at Table 2 of the 'Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England 2007: Preliminary results' report.

This report, published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care on 4 October 2007, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/dental-treatment-band-analysis-england-2007:-preliminary-results.

The report 'Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England and Wales, 2007-08' provides equivalent information for the whole of 2007-08, and is due to be published by the Information Centre for health and social care in August 2008.

The reports relate to treatments provided within national health service dental services and not private services.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people registered with a NHS dentist in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 1999, *(c)* 2002 and *(d)* 2006. [209848]

Ann Keen: The number of people registered with a national health service dentist, for adults and children and in total, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report is available in the Library and also at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen by an NHS dentist for the specified period, in England, is available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hospital admissions related to *(a)* dentistry and *(b)* dental problems in each of the last 10 years. [209849]

Ann Keen: The number of hospital admissions where a dental consultant was responsible for the patient is set out in the following table. It is not possible categorise the data by 'dental problems' as requested.

A person may be admitted to hospital more than once so the following data do not represent a count of patients.

Hospital admissions where a dental[1] consultant was responsible for the patient national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS, total admissions 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Number
2006-07	238,967
2005-06	234,186
2004-05	211,701
2003-04	210,104
2002-03	209,803
2001-02	203,521
2000-01	205,708
1999-2000	212,417
1998-99	215,316
1997-98	200,519

[1] The main specialties used to define 'dental consultants' in the data above are oral surgery, restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry, orthodontics and oral and maxillo facial surgery.

Notes:

1. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

2. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected in the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

3. *Data Quality* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. *Finished admission episodes (FAEs)* A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. *Consultant main specialty* This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible is contracted. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average distance a person has to travel to see an NHS dentist in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England; and what estimate he has made of that distance in each year since 1979. [210117]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not available. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission local dental services to meet local needs. PCTs are expected to develop robust commission plans. These will include consideration of access to local dental services at the time and place that people want.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were who accepted new patients in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [210118]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on the number of dentists taking on new patients.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dentists are employed full-time by the NHS, broken down by strategic health authority; [208974]

(2) how many dentists are employed full-time by the NHS in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and (c) England; [208975]

(3) how many dentists were employed full-time by the NHS in each of the last 10 years; [208978]

(4) how many dentists are listed on the primary care NHS list for *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England. [208980]

Ann Keen: The number of dentists on open national health service contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the new contractual arrangements which were introduced on 1 April 2006. The information is shown by type of contract held. Dentists are employed on three types of contract: general dental services (GDS), personal dental services (PDS) and trust led dental services (TDS). Dentists can hold more than one contract and more than one type of contract at the same time. Those on TDS contracts are employed directly by the NHS.

This Report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The number of NHS dentists, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements that were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This information covered GDS and PDS dentists only.

This Report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care, on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for counting and reporting the NHS dental work force is currently under review. The review, led by analysts at the Information Centre for health and social care and the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Assembly Government, working in liaison with the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, aims to ensure that following the first year of the new dental contractual arrangements, the figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force.

The work force data provided in the 2006-07 report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete. The review is currently at consultation stage which is due to end on 11 July 2008.

The intention is to publish work force data in the "NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2007-08" report, due to be published in August 2008.

The Information Centre is also due to publish the report "Dental Working Hours 2006-07 and 2007-08" in August 2008. This Report should contain some analysis of the full-time equivalent work force and NHS commitment at SHA level.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many individuals are on a waiting list for an NHS dentist in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England; [208976]

(2) how many individuals are on a waiting list for an NHS dentist, broken down by strategic health authority. [208977]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine how best to manage patients seeking national health service dental services.

However, increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in the "Operating Framework: For The NHS in England 2008-09" and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Dental Services: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [209633]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists in England at 31 March, 1997 to 2006, is available in Annex E and Annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G provides information by constituency. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. The report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of dentists with open NHS contracts in England at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 is available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07". This information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Data are not available by constituency. This information is based on the new contractual arrangements that were introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The workforce data provided in the 2006-07 report are the latest available. Both reports were published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of dental activity were claimed by dentists in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* England in each quarter since the introduction of the new dental contract. [209356]

Ann Keen: Units of dental activity (UDAs) delivered are reported by dentists to the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority. Information on the number of UDAs delivered is available in the following reports for England, and by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Hemel Hempstead is in West Hertfordshire PCT. This information could be provided by constituency only at disproportionate cost.

Information for the first and second quarter of 2007-08 is available in Tables B1 and B2 of Annex 4 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2007" report. This report, published on 5 June 2008, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Information for the third quarter of 2007-08 is available in Table B1 of Annex 3 of the Report.

Information for 2006-07 is available in Table B1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This shows the total number of UDAs for the year.

This Report, published, on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Due to an improvement in the methodology used for the first time in the full year activity data in the Report, quarterly activity data for 2006-07, based on the old methodology, are not comparable.

Activity is now measured as the number of courses of treatment (UDAs are allocated to a course of treatment) which end within any given quarter of the year. Previously, it had been measured as the number of activity report forms processed by the Dental Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority within that quarter, of which some forms may have related to courses of treatment carried out in earlier quarters.

All the Reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200713]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information from 1990-91 to 2006-07, the latest year that pension scheme accounts are available, is shown in the following table. Increases in contributions in 2000-01 and 2001-02 reflect the phased increase in employers contributions following the 1994 valuation of the scheme, which was published in October 1998. The figures from 2003-04 include changes in relation to the retail prices indexation for existing pensioners for which funding was devolved from HM Treasury to the Department in 2003-04, and which was fully devolved to scheme employers from 2004-05. It has been agreed as part of the review of the NHS Pension Scheme that there will be a cap on employers' contributions in relation to increases in costs relating from improvements in the value of the scheme to members of 14.2 per cent. from 2012, when the 2008 valuation is expected to be implemented, and of 14 per cent. from 2016.

	Contribution rate (percentage)	*Employer contributions (£000)*
1990-91	4	394,055
1991-92	4	458,077
1992-93	4	506,644
1993-94	4	488,072
1994-95	4	497,957
1995-96	4	525,623
1996-97	4	554,201
1997-98	4	605,052
1998-99	4	663,982
1999-2000	4	723,950
2000-01	5	925,169
2001-02	7	1,504,273
2002-03	7	1,632,536
2003-04	14	3,588,337
2004-05	14	3,890,167
2005-06	14	4,301,122
2006-07	14	4,579,685

Source:
Government Actuary's Department, Appropriation accounts and "NHS Pension Scheme" resource accounts

Elderly: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1016W, on the elderly: malnutrition, for how long the monitoring of the Nutrition Action Plan by the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board will be ongoing; [206647]

(2) what the timetable for publication is of the first progress report from the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery board; how many progress reports the Board plans to produce in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [206671]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Terms of Reference for the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board state that the monitoring of the Nutrition Action Plan will exist during the course of 2008 in order to oversee implementation of the document.

The Terms of Reference for the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board state that the chair of the board will publish two reports this year. The first of these reports will be published in summer and one by December 2008. The Department will review whether to extend their existence beyond December 2008 upon consideration of their end of year report and any implications from that progress update.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2097-98W, on the elderly: nutrition, when he expects to publish the minutes of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's meeting of 12 February; if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda of the meeting of the Board of 12 February; and if he will make it his policy to place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of all meetings held by (i) the Board and (ii) the Board's sub-groups. [206648]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The minutes of the 12 February 2008 meeting of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board have been placed in the Library. This includes the agenda and verbal updates on progress from the board's five subgroups as noted during the course of the meeting.

The 12 February was the first meeting of its kind. Subsequent meetings were held on 29 April and 10 June. The minutes of subsequent meetings will also be placed in the Library once they become available.

Fluoride

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to monitor the effects on health of ingestion of fluoride; [208968]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relative prevalence of thyroid disease in fluoridated areas. [209109]

Ann Keen: Under section 90A of the Water Industry Act 1991, strategic health authorities (SHAs) are required to monitor the effects of fluoridation schemes on the health of persons living in the fluoridated area and publish reports containing an analysis of the effects on health at four-yearly intervals. The West Midland Public Health Observatory is leading on the compilation of a set of standard indicators which can be used by SHAs in fulfilling this responsibility. This approach would use information on concentrations of fluoride in drinking water and intakes from dietary studies to estimate ingestion of fluoride. We understand that in compiling proposals the observatory is considering whether thyroid disease could be monitored using such routine data sources.

A review "Water fluoridation and health" undertaken by the Medical Research Council of the need for research on the effects of fluoridation and published in 2002 ascribed a low priority to further research on thyroid disorders. We will consider the need for further research on thyroid disorders in the light of any recommendations which may be made by the observatory.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to assess public opinion on proposals to fluoridate water in the North West of England. [208969]

Ann Keen: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to decide whether to undertake consultations on proposals for new fluoridation schemes. We understand that the North West SHA has been working with the primary care trusts in the area to assess cost, benefits and technical options, but has not yet decided whether to proceed to a consultation.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budgeting allocation has been made for the proposed implementation of water fluoridation in the North West; and from which budget. [209375]

Ann Keen: Funding for the investigation, public consultation, installation and operation of any fluoridation scheme would be agreed locally between the responsible strategic health authority (SHA) and participating primary care trusts, drawing upon their local national health service budgets, and the relevant water company. In addition, the Government announced in February 2008 that up to £43 million would be available from centrally managed NHS capital funds over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to assist SHAs with the capital cost of establishing new fluoridation schemes which have been supported by local communities, or refurbishing plant to maintain existing fluoridation schemes.

Health Authorities

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are served by each strategic health authority; and what percentage of the population each figure represents. [208979]

Mr. Bradshaw: The population in each strategic health authority (SHA) is set out in the following table.

Population in each SHA

SHA	*Population (thousand)*	*Percentage of England*
North East	2,555.7	5.0
North West	6,853.2	13.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,142.4	10.1
East Midlands	4,364.2	8.6
West Midlands	5,366.7	10.6
East of England	5,606.6	11.0
London	7,512.4	14.8
South East Coast	4,248.3	8.4
South Central	3,989.5	7.9
South West	5,124.1	10.1
England	50,762.9	100.0

Notes:

1. Provisional 2006 mid-year, resident population estimates, which are the latest available.
2. The figures for SHAs may not sum exactly to the England total due to individual rounding of each SHA figure.
3. The populations for which the SHAs are responsible may differ marginally from the figures supplied. SHAs will be responsible for patients resident in other SHAs who are registered with general practitioner practises in their own areas.

Source:

Office for National Statistics website

Health Centres: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what polyclinics are planned for Milton Keynes primary care trust. [211038]

Mr. Bradshaw: None. The proposal in Milton Keynes is a general practitioner-led health centre.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to issue the consultation on investment in access and clinical services referred to in its press release of 4 May 2008, entitled Strengthening Family Doctor Services, ref 2008/053. [209888]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: A detailed written proposal is currently being prepared to implement the Doctors' and Dentists Pay Review Body recommendations for general practitioners. The intention is that this should be with the British Medical Association's General Practices Committee as soon as possible. This will also enable changes that need to be made to the Statement of Financial Entitlements to introduce the new enhanced patient services set out in the press release of 4 May 2008.

Health Services: Religion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on health care chaplaincy in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [210193]

Ann Keen: Since the beginning of November 2007, the Department is aware of 17 letters relating to health care chaplaincy and spiritual care. We have received representation from the representative bodies of the nine principal world faiths in relation to central funding for chaplaincy workforce development. We have also received representation from the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy on issues arising from the completion of the Caring for the Spirit programme led by NHS Yorkshire and Humber.

Hypertension: Medical Treatments

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential use of non-drug appliances to lower blood pressure. [211030]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of such appliances.

Infant Mortality

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many premature babies died as a result of early birth each week on average in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what steps he plans to take to reduce infant mortality among prematurely born babies. [209969]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information relating to the number of premature babies that die.

The Office for National Statistics produced a report, "Introducing data on gestation specific infant mortality among babies born in 2005 in England and Wales" which details death rates of babies born in 2005, broken down by gestation rate.

The recent report "Perinatal Mortality 2006 - England, Wales and Northern Ireland" published by the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) in April 2008, found a continuing decline in the overall neonatal mortality rate and in the stillbirth, perinatal and neonatal mortality rates in multiple pregnancies.

Tackling health inequalities in infant mortality, including among prematurely born babies, remains an important government priority as reaffirmed in the publication "Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps" published on 9 June.

Copies of each of these reports have been placed in the Library.

Junior Doctors: Employment

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors who qualified in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS. [209199]

Ann Keen: All medical students who applied to the foundation programme in 2007 were offered a place, subject to their obtaining their medical degree that year.

Lung Diseases

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* emergency hospital admissions and *(b)* inpatient bed days that could be saved by improving the rate of early diagnosis for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [209833]

Ann Keen: There were 179,611 hospital admissions and 917,644[1] bed days for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) diagnosis in 2006-07.

It is expected that improving the early diagnosis of COPD will reduce the number of hospital admissions and bed days. However, information is not available centrally to quantify that reduction.

[1] *Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics, ICD10 codes J40-J44 inclusive, ungrossed data

Maternity Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what neonatal units there are in each health authority area. [209096]

Ann Keen: There are 109 neonatal units in England. A detailed list has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children were admitted to neonatal units in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age of the child and *(b)* health authority; [209097]

(2) how many children admitted to neonatal units died within *(a)* 24 hours, *(b)* two days, *(c)* three days and *(d)* seven days in each of the last five years; and how many survived and were discharged. [209116]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Industrial Health and Safety

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures are in place to reduce the number of needlestick injuries to NHS staff; [209174]

(2) how many injuries to NHS staff in each trust were recorded as a result of needlestick injury in each of the last five years; and what types of infection resulted from such injuries. [209175]

Ann Keen: There are a range of measures to reduce the risk of sharps injuries, including the safe handling and disposal of sharps, the provision of medical devices that incorporate sharps protection and the wearing of protective clothing.

The Department's 'Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections', revised in January 2008, places a duty on national health service bodies to ensure that health care workers are protected from exposure to communicable infections during the course of the their work, and that all staff are suitably educated in the prevention and control of health care associated infections. Copies have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139336.

NHS Employers have also issued guidance on the avoidance of needlestick injuries in 'The healthy workplaces handbook', which is available by subscription.

Information on the number and outcomes of needlestick injuries to national health service staff in each trust is not collected centrally. However, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects information on surveillance of significant occupational exposures to blood-borne viruses in health care workers in the United Kingdom; its latest report is available on the HPA's website at:

http://www.camr.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1205394781623.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines his Department provides to primary care trusts to ensure the provision of accurate information in documents they publish for public consultations; [207900]

(2) what steps he takes to ensure that primary care trusts make accurate figures available to members of the public when embarking on consultations for major changes in the services provided by hospitals. [209864]

Ann Keen: The Department does not provide guidance on the accuracy of information contained in public consultations undertaken by primary care trusts but expects that best endeavours are made to ensure information shared is up-to-date, accurate and validated.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sources of data on organ donation his Department uses; and if he will make a statement. [209907]

Ann Keen: The Department uses a wide range of data sources for organ donation related purposes. The primary source for statistical data is NHS Blood and Transplant, which publishes "Transplant Activity in the UK" on an annual basis, copies of the 2006-07 Report have been placed in the Library.

Other sources of data include the Information Centre for health and social care. The Council of Europe provides a Europe-wide overview in its annual Transplant Newsletter that includes international figures on organ donation and transplantation.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donors donated organs in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital; and which organs were donated. [209909]

Ann Keen: The number of organ donors who donated organs in 2006-07 broken down by hospital and which organs were donated can be found at:

www.uktransplant.org.uk/ukt/statistics/transplant_activity_report/transplant_activity_report.jsp

Appendix la and Appendix 1b give numbers of deceased heartbeating and non-heartbeating organ donors and donated organs by donating hospitals.

The number of organ donors who donated organs in 2001-06 broken down by hospital and which organs were donated can be found at:

www.uktransplant.org.uk/ukt/statistics/transplant_activity_report/archive_activity_reports/archive_reports.jsp

Appendix 1a and Appendix 1b give numbers of deceased heartbeating and non-heartbeating organ donors and donated organs by donating hospitals.

Paediatrics

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* training and *(b)* consultancy posts were established in each of the last five years for paediatrics. [209631]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally, however the numbers of doctors in training and consultants in paediatrics for each of the last five years is shown in the following tables.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff within each specified paediatric specialty: England as 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

		All staff	*Consultant*	*Associate specialist*	*Staff group*	*Registrar group*
1997	Total	4,636	1,321	64	283	986
	Paediatric cardiology	39	16	—		13
	Paediatric dentistry	65	20	2	1	18
	Paediatric surgery	227	74	1	2	55
	Paediatrics	4,305	1,211	61	280	900
1998	Total	4,879	1,408	79	342	1,090
	Paediatric cardiology	55	17	—		21
	Paediatric dentistry	69	23	1	2	18
	Paediatric surgery	268	86	2	5	56
	Paediatrics	4,487	1,282	76	335	995
1999	Total	5,063	1,474	96	372	1,180
	Paediatric cardiology	52	18	—	2	21
	Paediatric dentistry	74	21	1	3	22
	Paediatric surgery	239	98	1	5	55
	Paediatrics	4,698	1,337	94	362	1,082
2000	Total	5,377	1,570	104	472	1,229
	Paediatric cardiology	51	23	—	—	19
	Paediatric dentistry	73	23	2	5	20
	Paediatric surgery	277	104	2	7	63
	Paediatrics	4,976	1,420	100	460	1,127
2001	Total	5,476	1,643	109	507	1,194
	Paediatric cardiology	68	29	—	—	18
	Paediatric dentistry	64	22	1	3	18
	Paediatric surgery	285	114	1	9	69
	Paediatrics	5,059	1,478	107	495	1,089
2002	Total	5,976	1,822	134	556	1,259
	Paediatric cardiology	115	64	—	—	31
	Paediatric dentistry	66	22	2	3	12
	Paediatric surgery	302	105	5	7	81
	Paediatrics	5,493	1,631	127	546	1,135

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff within each specified paediatric specialty: England as 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

		All staff	*Consultant*	*Associate specialist*	*Staff group*	*Registrar group*
2003	Total	6,291	1,937	165	579	1,308
	Paediatric cardiology	110	69	—	—	21
	Paediatric dentistry	70	30	1	1	14
	Paediatric surgery	261	100	3	3	68
	Paediatrics	5,850	1,738	161	575	1,205
2004	Total	6,847	2,040	211	584	1,609
	Paediatric cardiology	108	63	—	—	23
	Paediatric dentistry	78	30	3	2	24
	Paediatric surgery	325	108	4	7	100
	Paediatrics	6,336	1,839	204	575	1,462
2005	Total	7,178	2,168	258	551	1,739
	Paediatric cardiology	90	48	1		18
	Paediatric dentistry	74	29	2	3	23
	Paediatric surgery	334	106	4	9	99
	Paediatrics	6,680	1,985	251	539	1,599
2006	Total	7,424	2, 289	291	538	1,849
	Paediatric cardiology	124	63	—	—	36
	Paediatric dentistry	81	31	3	3	18
	Paediatric surgery	304	104	1	5	95
	Paediatrics	6,915	2, 091	287	530	1,700
2007	Total	7,384	2, 331	282	488	3,263
	Paediatric cardiology	93	42	—	—	46
	Paediatric dentistry	77	29	2	2	21
	Paediatric surgery	279	104	7	5	128
	Paediatrics	6,935	2,156	273	481	3,068

		Senior House Officer	*Foundation Year*	*House officer and foundation year 1*	*Hospital practitioner/clinical assistant*	*Other staff*
1997	Total	1,815	—	24	140	3
	Paediatric cardiology	9	—	1	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	6	—	4	13	1
	Paediatric surgery	92	—	2	1	—
	Paediatrics	1,708	—	18	125	2
1998	Total	1,793	—	33	133	1
	Paediatric cardiology	17	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	6	—	—	18	1
	Paediatric surgery	109	—	7	3	—
	Paediatrics	1,661	—	26	112	—
1999	Total	1,780	—	42	119	—
	Paediatric cardiology	10	—	—	1	—
	Paediatric dentistry	6	—	2	19	—
	Paediatric surgery	75	—	4	1	—
	Paediatrics	1,689	—	36	98	—
2000	Total	1,847	—	46	109	—

		Senior House Officer	Foundation Year	House officer and foundation year 1	Hospital practitioner/clinical assistant	Other staff
	Paediatric cardiology	8	—	—	1	—
	Paediatric dentistry	3	—	—	20	—
	Paediatric surgery	97	—	3	1	—
	Paediatrics	1,739	—	43	87	—
2001	Total	1,818	—	46	102	57
	Paediatric cardiology	19	—	2	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	5	—	1	14	—
	Paediatric surgery	86	—	4	2	—
	Paediatrics	1,708	—	39	86	57
2002	Total	1, ,932	—	61	106	106
	Paediatric cardiology	20	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	4	—	3	20	—
	Paediatric surgery	96	—	7	1	—
	Paediatrics	1, ,812	—	51	[illegible]5	106
2003	Total	2, ,052	—	73	88	89
	Paediatric cardiology	20	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	8	—	—	16	—
	Paediatric surgery	81	—	4	2	—
	Paediatrics	1,943	—	69	70	89
2004	Total	2,193	—	80	71	59
	Paediatric cardiology	22	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	9	—	—	10	—
	Paediatric surgery	101	—	4	1	—
	Paediatrics	2, ,061	—	76	60	59
2005	Total	2,133	103	125	63	38
	Paediatric cardiology	22	1	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	6	—	—	10	1
	Paediatric surgery	99	6	10	1	—
	Paediatrics	2,006	96	115	52	37
2006	Total	2,022	214	137	62	22
	Paediatric cardiology	25	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	6	—	—	15	5
	Paediatric surgery	81	10	8	—	—
	Paediatrics	1,910	204	129	47	17
2007	Total	527	269	150	54	20
	Paediatric cardiology	5	—	—	—	—
	Paediatric dentistry	9	—	—	8	6
	Paediatric surgery	15	14	6	—	—
	Paediatrics	498	255	144	46	14

Parkinson's Disease: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in Hertfordshire provide *(a)* Parkinson's disease and *(b)* paediatric diabetes specialist nurses. [210139]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual national heath service work force census does not separately identify the number of Parkinson's disease and paediatric diabetes specialist nurses from the rest of the nursing work force. Work force planning is a matter for local determination as local NHS organisations are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local population. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter locally.

Patients: Attendance

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital appointments were missed in each primary care trust in the last year for which information is available; what the average cost of a missed hospital appointment was in that year; and if he will make a statement. [211092]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of missed hospital appointments in each primary care trust for 2007-08 is shown in the table.

The Department has not made an estimate of the cost of such missed appointments. Through the introduction of choice and choose and book, patients can now choose the place, time and date of their hospital appointment which will help to reduce the number of missed appointments in national health service hospitals.

Missed hospital appointments, all specialties, by primary care trust, England, 2007-08 commissioner based

PCT name	*1st and subsequent out-patient appointments did not attend (DNA)*	*In-patient failed to attend*	*Total missed appointments*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	45,245	1,290	46,535
Barking and Dagenham PCT	26,524	379	26,903
Barnet PCT	51,197	1,084	52,281
Barnsley PCT	38,503	1,092	39,595
Bassetlaw PCT	11,604	100	11,704
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	10,132	612	10,744
Bedfordshire PCT	20,145	625	20,770
Berkshire East PCT	63,354	368	63,722
Berkshire West PCT	30,551	498	31,049
Bexley Care Trust	19,463	300	19,763
Birmingham East and North PCT	62,783	1,302	64,085
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	17,387	370	17,757
Blackpool PCT	19,896	178	20,074
Bolton PCT	31,725	641	32,366
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	20,226	283	20,509
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	54,842	252	55,094
Brent Teaching PCT	46,025	1,037	47,062
Brighton and Hove City PCT	23,129	160	23,289
Bristol PCT	44,238	809	45,047
Bromley PCT	34,282	331	34,613
Buckinghamshire PCT	29,441	1,059	30,500
Bury PCT	26,213	444	26,657
Calderdale PCT	24,192	314	24,506
Cambridgeshire PCT	34,010	451	34,461
Camden PCT	42,408	819	43,227
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	34,329	560	34,889
Central Lancashire PCT	55,407	684	56,091
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	42,455	723	43,178
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	33,316	585	33,901
County Durham PCT	46,326	1,347	47,673
Coventry Teaching PCT	36,506	797	37,303
Croydon PCT	39,538	1,121	40,659
Cumbria Teaching PCT	32,339	894	33,233
Darlington PCT	10,558	130	10,688
Derby City PCT	25,773	848	26,621
Derbyshire County PCT	52,860	1,342	54,202
Devon PCT	44,451	1,265	45,716
Doncaster PCT	26,137	390	26,527
Dorset PCT	23,961	419	24,380
Dudley PCT	39,989	599	40,588
Ealing PCT	153,768	1,054	154,822
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	6,543	517	7,060
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	46,014	660	46,674
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	20,374	460	20,834
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	26,854	721	27,575
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	64,130	447	64,577
Enfield PCT	38,931	467	39,398
Gateshead PCT	23,612	537	24,149

Missed hospital appointments, all specialties, by primary care trust, England, 2007-08 commissioner based

PCT name	*1st and subsequent out-patient appointments did not attend (DNA)*	*In-patient failed to attend*	*Total missed appointments*
Gloucestershire PCT	36,714	175	36,889
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	18,327	422	18,749
Greenwich Teaching PCT	31,778	738	32,516
Halton and St. Helens PCT	38,773	1,040	39,813
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	32,235	145	32,380
Hampshire PCT	119,154	1,335	120,489
Haringey Teaching PCT	45,630	1,172	46,802
Harrow PCT	14,765	580	15,345
Hartlepool PCT	9,261	272	9,533
Hastings and Rother PCT	15,440	385	15,825
Havering PCT	28,414	317	28,731
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	53,673	801	54,474
Herefordshire PCT	13,569	37	13,606
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	33,513	625	34,138
Hillingdon PCT	23,955	811	24,766
Hounslow PCT	5,741	543	6,284
Hull Teaching PCT	29,124	461	29,585
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	10,624	116	10,740
Islington PCT	37,095	1,407	38,502
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	25,123	202	25,325
Kingston PCT	24,572	126	24,698
Kirklees PCT	43,934	676	44,610
Knowsley PCT	29,910	656	30,566
Lambeth PCT	68,607	1,279	69,886
Leeds PCT	79,718	765	80,483
Leicester City PCT	38,481	321	38,802
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	46,316	994	47,310
Lewisham PCT	62,856	853	63,709
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	49,211	1,066	50,277
Liverpool PCT	94,498	899	95,397
Luton PCT	21,838	400	22,238
Manchester PCT	113,948	2,509	116,457
Medway PCT	24,863	203	25,066
Mid Essex PCT	31,021	233	31,254
Middlesbrough PCT	14,597	326	14,923
Milton Keynes PCT	16,933	151	17,084
Newcastle PCT	39,868	1,316	41,184
Newham PCT	41,273	602	41,875
Norfolk PCT	40,029	713	40,742
North East Essex PCT	19,854	236	20,090
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	14,687	483	15,170
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	29,640	506	30,146
North Lincolnshire PCT	13,048	642	13,690
North Somerset PCT	16,962	239	17,201
North Staffordshire PCT	10,525	35	10,560
North Tees Teaching PCT	15,931	554	16,485
North Tyneside PCT	27,777	647	28,424
North Yorkshire And York PCT	39,428	547	39,975
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	38,862	1,379	40,241
Northumberland Care Trust	30,496	792	31,288
Nottingham City PCT	31,749	546	32,295
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	56,929	1,150	58,079
Oldham PCT	31,119	707	31,826
Oxfordshire PCT	40,620	824	41,444
Peterborough PCT	12,084	291	12,375
Plymouth Teaching PCT	17,624	500	18,124
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	17,853	447	18,300
Redbridge PCT	31,271	1,035	32,306
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	9,338	191	9,529
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	41,668	122	41,790

Missed hospital appointments, all specialties, by primary care trust, England, 2007-08 commissioner based

PCT name	*1st and subsequent out-patient appointments did not attend (DNA)*	*In-patient failed to attend*	*Total missed appointments*
Rotherham PCT	31,872	1,142	33,014
Salford PCT	38,612	838	39,450
Sandwell PCT	48,274	763	49,037
Sefton PCT	39,295	1,009	40,304
Sheffield PCT	72,054	1,618	73,672
Shropshire County PCT	16,154	245	16,399
Solihull Care Trust	22,580	225	22,805
Somerset PCT	37,992	1,009	39,001
South Birmingham PCT	52,449	763	53,212
South East Essex PCT	35,918	786	36,704
South Gloucestershire PCT	16,620	374	16,994
South Staffordshire PCT	49,408	1,544	50,952
South Tyneside PCT	16,162	757	16,919
South West Essex PCT	44,574	385	44,959
Southampton City PCT	21,976	392	22,368
Southwark PCT	64,616	1,014	65,630
Stockport PCT	33,783	563	34,346
Stoke on Trent PCT	19,236	274	19,510
Suffolk PCT	39,965	436	40,401
Sunderland Teaching PCT	26,373	954	27,327
Surrey PCT	64,711	747	65,458
Sutton and Merton PCT	35,912	444	36,356
Swindon PCT	14,311	329	14,640
Tameside and Glossop PCT	26,409	587	26,996
Telford and Wrekin PCT	12,387	244	12,631
Torbay Care Trust	8,693	111	8,804
Tower Hamlets PCT	46,778	496	47,274
Trafford PCT	33,149	846	33,995
Wakefield District PCT	41,352	683	42,035
Walsall Teaching PCT	29,998	377	30,375
Waltham Forest PCT	26,535	250	26,785
Wandsworth PCT	36,329	261	36,590
Warrington PCT	17,075	645	17,720
Warwickshire PCT	45,835	881	46,716
West Essex PCT	26,085	149	26,234
West Hertfordshire PCT	9,448	989	10,437
West Kent PCT	58,746	939	59,685
West Sussex PCT	49,679	765	50,444
Western Cheshire PCT	22,666	380	23,046
Westminster PCT	29,949	377	30,326
Wiltshire PCT	25,324	324	25,648
Wirral PCT	32,644	844	33,488
Wolverhampton City PCT	35,040	443	35,483
Worcestershire PCT	46,797	910	47,707

Notes:

1. On 1 October 2007 North Lincolnshire PCT became North Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus. Data for North Lincolnshire PCT have been reported as North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus in the table.
2. An estimate has been used for quarter three for City and Hackney PCT for failed to attends.
3. An estimate has been used for quarter one for Westminster PCT for DNAs.
4. DNA is where a patient did not attend a 1st or subsequent out-patient appointment and no advance warning was given, or the patient arrived too late to be seen.
5. Failed to attend is where a patient did not attend hospital when they were due to be admitted for treatment.

Source:

Department of Health forms KH067AR, quarterly activity return (OAR)

Tobacco: Licensed Premises

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government have plans to remove cigarette vending machines from licensed premises. [211201]

Dawn Primarolo: The sale of tobacco from vending machines is a topic of consideration within the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control". This consultation was published on 31 May 2008; copies are available in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

The consultation will close on 8 September 2008.

The Government welcome responses from all interested stakeholders and will make decisions on further controls on tobacco vending machines in light of the responses to the consultation.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust : Vacancies

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS posts have been vacant for more than three months at *(a)* West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and *(b)* South West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust. [210134]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is available on national health service organisations' three month vacancy rates for vacancies that trusts are actively trying to fill that have lasted for three months or more. The latest available information shows the position at 31 March 2007.

There is no South West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust and so information has been provided for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, which is based in the hon. Member's constituency. The following tables show the three-month vacancy rates and vacancy numbers at 31 March 2007 for West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

NHS three month vacancies in West Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, all non-medical staff groups and medical and dental staff (excluding doctors in training and equivalents)

	Three month vacancy rates and numbers	
	Medical and dental staff (excluding doctors in training)	
	Three month vacancy rate (percentage)	*Three month vacancy number*
West Hertfordshire PCT	0.0	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4.1	9

					Three month vacancy rates and numbers	
	All nursing, midwifery and health, of which:		*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health*		*Unqualified nursing, midwifery and health*	
	Three month vacancy rate (percentage)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*
West Hertfordshire PCT	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0.1	2	0.2	2	0.0	0

					Three month vacancy rates and numbers	
	All scientific and therapeutic		*Qualified allied health professionals*		*Qualified health care scientists*	
	Three month vacancy rate (percentage)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*
West Hertfordshire PCT	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2.7	14	1.3	2	5.1	8

					Three month vacancy rates and numbers	
	Other qualified scientific		*Unqualified scientific*		*Other non-medical staff*	
	Three month vacancy rate (percentage)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*	*Three month vacancy rate (percentage)*	*Three month vacancy number*
West Hertfordshire PCT	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3.8	4	0.8	1	0.2	2

Notes:

1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey 2007.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2007.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
4. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the September 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census and Medical and Dental Workforce Census.
6. Vacancy numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
7. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
8. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey March 2007

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Records Bureau: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the website, www.crb.gov.uk, in each month since its inception; what the budget for the website is for 2008-09; how many staff are employed to maintain the website; and how many unique visitors there were to the website in each month since its inception. [200375]

Meg Hillier: The amount spent on the website, www.crb.gov.uk, in each year since its inception is detailed in the following table. The average monthly cost for each year is also shown. However, the exact monthly costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Monthly figures—Visitors to CRB website

Period	*Number of visitors*
7 December 2005 to 31 December 2005	28,977
2006	
January	85,952
February	83,171
March	93, 149
April	74, 821
May	84,290
June	76,141
July	73,880
August	73, 862
September	81,030
October	86,218
November	91,677
December	64,887
2007	
January	108,167
February	97,373
March	107,197
April	93,207
May	104,881
June	104,615
July	106,811
August	107,448
September	110,372
October	122,933
November	121,174
December	91,572
2008	
January	142,256
February	128,869
March	129,915
April	144,092

The budget for the website for 2008-09 is £44,500 which includes the cost of an upgrade in the web support software and a redesign of the website.

The CRB employs one person whose role is to maintain and update the website. However, this is only one aspect of their role and not the only task the person carries out.

The numbers of visitors to the website in each month since December 2005 are detailed in the following table. These figures date back to the point at which the CRB acquired the package that allows them to glean such statistical data.

The CRB cannot confirm the number of unique visitors as some individuals may have visited the website on several occasions.

Website expenditure

£

	Annual cost	*Average cost per month*
2002-03	12,079	1,007
2003-04	34,863	2,905
2004-05	18,990	1,583
2005-06	122,000	10,167
2006-07	47,262	3,938
2007-08	36,992	3,083

Genetics: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children had their DNA recorded on police records *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Sussex in each of the last five years. [186768]

Meg Hillier: The following table gives numbers of subject profiles and the estimated number of individuals aged under 18, and under 16 years, sampled by police forces in England and in Sussex in each of the last five financial years. The figures show those currently under 18 or 16, not those who were that age at the time they were sampled. The fact that someone is sampled by a particular police force does not mean that the person lives in the force area. The number of profiles held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. At present, the replication rate is 13.3 per cent.

	England				*Sussex*			
	Under 18		*Under 16*		*Under 18*		*Under 16*	
	Subject profiles	*Estimated individuals*	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*
2003-04	87,288	75,679	51,930	45,023	2,508	2,174	1,555	1,348
2004-05	105,654	91,602	64,025	55,510	3,267	2,832	2,016	1,748
2005-06	134,649	116,741	81,421	70,592	3,730	3,234	2,283	1,979

	England				Sussex			
	Under 18		Under 16		Under 18		Under 16	
	Subject profiles	Estimated individuals	Subject profiles	Estimated individuals	Subject profiles	Estimated individuals	Subject profiles	Estimated individuals
2006-07	139,045	120,552	84,519	73,278	3,435	2,978	2,101	1,822
April 2007 to February 2008	105,645	91,594	65,015	56,368	3,130	2,714	1,809	1,568

[illegible]nny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what applications to use DNA samples from the national DNA database in research projects have been refused to date; and if she will make a statement. †[188153]

Meg Hillier: Three applications from the Forensic Science Service made between 2002 and 2005 to use DNA samples to develop a Y-STR and surnames database were refused.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2062W, on genetics: database, how many DNA samples from the national DNA database were used for the research project carried out by Cellmark Forensic Services on the further development of familial searching software; and if she will make a statement. [196116]

Meg Hillier: No DNA samples were used for the research project referred to. The term "DNA sample" refers to biological material taken from an individual, or a trace left at a crime scene.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for employing illegal immigrants in each year sine 1997. [167713]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, from 1997 to 2006, in England and Wales, are shown in the following table. All defendants found guilty of this offence were given a fine; with the exception of one defendant in 2005 who was given a conditional discharge.

Information on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2004 during 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

We are committed to bringing forward the implementation of measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which has provided the Border and Immigration Agency with a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduced a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which carries a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures came into force on 29 February 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2]: Employing a person aged 16 and above subject to immigration control

Number of persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[3]	2006[3]
Proceeded against	0	1	4	10	5	2	2	11	23	11
Found guilty	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	8	13	7

[1] Principal immigration offence.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures are provisional.

Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the permissibility of taking photographs in registry offices; and if she will make a statement. [209798]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 9 June 2008]*: There is nothing in marriage legislation that refers specifically to the subject of photography at the wedding and arrangements are at the discretion of the local superintendent registrar.

Guidance for registration officers is a matter for the Registrar General. He has advised them that there have been no Government guidelines. They should continue with their usual practices where these allow full opportunity for photographs without undermining the solemnity and dignity of the occasion. He accepts the need for common-sense precautions to avoid any damage to the register and to conceal the identifying information that it contains.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Prisoner Escapes

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those who escaped from the Yarl's Wood detention centre during the fire of 14th February 2002 remained at large for *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months; and whether any such prisoners remain at large. [207295]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2008]*: A total of 23 detainees are believed to have escaped from Yarl's Wood on 14 February 2002.

Many records were burnt or destroyed on the night of the fire which means that I am unable to answer the question in the format requested.

However, nine have since been removed from the United Kingdom, one has made a voluntary departure, five are in contact with the UK Border Agency and eight are considered to still be unlawfully at large.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Cancer: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* the Medical Research Council and *(b)* other research councils funded by his Department spent on cancer research in each of the last five years. [210382]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: In the last five years to 2006-07 the Medical Research Council has spent the following sums on cancer research: £65.4 million (2002-03), £70.8 million (2003-04), £78.7 million (2004-05), £78.1 million (2005-06) and £85.6 million (2006-07). During the same periods, the other Research Councils spent in total the following sums: £12 million, £13.9 million, £16.2 million, £18.4 million and £20.5 million.

Figures are not yet available for 2007-08.

Higher Education: Educational Institutions

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects *(a)* the consultation paper on creating new higher education centres to be published and *(b)* the process of bidding for such centres to begin. [211096]

Bill Rammell: We want to give everyone who has the talent the chance to go to university whether they are about to leave school or already in work. Students should have access to local provision offering flexible courses to suit their needs. Any proposals arising from our new "university challenge" policy for university campuses or centres will be assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England which will issue a consultation paper in July which will include a timetable on the way forward.

Nanotechnology: Research

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department is funding into developments in nanotechnology; and if he will make a statement. [209217]

Ian Pearson: The Research Councils support research and related training in nanotechnology. For example, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has spent over £132 million since 2003 on nanotechnology, and is currently investing about £40 million per annum in research grants and supporting 40 new PhD studentships per annum in the area.

A new £50 million cross-Council programme covering NanoScience through Engineering to Application was announced in December 2007 as one of six strategic priorities over the CSR period (2008-09 to 2010-11). From this, £6.5 million has been committed to explore new methods of harvesting solar energy, for example by developing new types of solar cells.

In addition, the Technology Strategy Board (an Executive NDPB of DIUS) currently provides funding of £19.5 million to projects at the nanoscale and a further £15 million on microscale engineering projects incorporating elements of nanotechnology. The Nanotechnology Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN), established in 2007, works with the network of KTNs funded by the Technology Strategy Board and has a role in coordinating the UK network of 23 Micro-Nano Technology (MNT) Centres, including two centres offering services on the characterisation of micro and nano-scale materials. £54 million has been provided to establish and maintain the MNT centres, jointly funded with the regional development agencies and devolved Administrations.

In April this year the National Measurement System (NMS) Unit in DIUS approved several new projects to be delivered within the NMS Chemical and Biological Metrology Programme. Two thirds of the work, worth more than £5 million over three years, addresses the field of nanotechnology. The projects aim to develop measurement standards and will be led by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL). NPL will involve several partners in the research.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of Chinese policy on human rights in Africa. [208908]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The UK recognises the growing role of China in Africa. We believe it is important for all of Africa's partners, including China, to act in ways that support the principles for sustainable development outlined in Africa's own New Partnership for Africa's Development agenda, including good governance and sound economic management.

The UK and China have initiated a dialogue covering a range of issues important to conflict prevention and development in Africa. Governance and human rights issues are discussed as part of this dialogue. There have been positive outcomes. During my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing in January, Premier Wen signed up to the Millennium Development Goals Call to Action. Ministers regularly discuss African issues, such as Darfur, with their Chinese counterparts. Through the dialogue and our other bilateral contacts with China we are also working to encourage the Chinese Government to endorse the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

JUSTICE

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209436]

Mr. Wills: No central figures for the amount of vocational training the Department has provided for staff is available

All parts of the Ministry of Justice, including its agencies, provide staff with the training and skills necessary to carry out their job through a variety of methods including: on the job training, classroom based training and national vocational qualifications.

High Court: Judges

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy on monitoring the expenses of High Court judges is; and whether he plans to make provision for such expenses to be made open to public scrutiny. [210905]

Mr. Straw: Arrangements for claiming expenses are governed by the High Court judges' "Memorandum on Conditions of Appointment and Terms of Service". Claims are authorised for payment by Ministry of Justice officials, are subject to appropriate levels of internal and National Audit Office scrutiny and form part of departmental annual reports and accounts which are published annually.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of prisoners requiring drug or alcohol interventions in the high security estate received them in the latest period for which figures are available. [208045]

Mr. Hanson: Data are not recorded in the format requested. However, epidemiological data show that on average around 55 per cent. of prisoners report a serious drug problem, with 80 per cent. reporting some misuse and around 7 per cent. of prisoners report severe alcohol dependency. There is no overall measure of treatment need. The following table shows details of drug interventions provided in the high security estate and as a proportion of annual throughput in 2007-08. Data on alcohol interventions are not recorded centrally.

Drug interventions provided in the high security estate as a proportion of annual throughput in 2007-08

Treatment modality	*Number of prisoners*[1]	*Number of prisoners as a percentage of total high security throughput figure (15,363) in 2007-08*
Number of prisoners entering clinical substance misuse detoxification programmes (drugs and alcohol)	3,249	21
Number of prisoners participating in extended prescribing programmes	200	1
CARATs Substance Misuse Triage Assessments (SMTAs)	3,818	25
Number of prisoners entering intensive drug treatment programmes	213	1

[1] Prisoners receive more than one intervention.

Asylum and Immigration Act 1996

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employers have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of an offence under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in each of the last 10 years; and what penalties were imposed in each case. [167714]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Statistics showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, from 1997 to 2006, in England and Wales, are shown in the following table. All defendants found guilty of this offence were given a fine; with the exception of one defendant in 2005 who was given a conditional discharge.

Information on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2004 during 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

We are committed to bringing forward the implementation of measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which has provided the Border and Immigration Agency with a wider and more effective range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduced a system of civil penalties for employers who employ illegal migrants through less than diligent practices, alongside a tough new offence for those who knowingly employ illegal migrants, which carries a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures came into force on 29 February 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1] [2]: Employing a person aged 16 and above subject to immigration control

Number of persons

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[3]	*2006*[3]
Proceeded against	0	1	4	10	5	2	2	11	23	11
Found guilty	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	8	13	7

[1] Principal immigration offence.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Figures are provisional.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208374]

Mr. Woodward: Bonuses were paid in 2007, based on performance in the 2006-07 reporting year to 324 staff. The breakdown of which is as follows, using manpower figures at the end of April 2008:

(a) 16.4 per cent. of males in the Department received a bonus (131 staff);

(b) 15.0 per cent. of females in the Department received a bonus (193 staff);

(c) 11.1 per cent. of ethnic minorities in the Department received a bonus (two staff);

(d) 6.25 per cent. of disabled staff in the Department received a bonus (five staff); and

(e) sexual orientation is not currently monitored in the Northern Ireland Office.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209246]

Mr. Woodward: The NIO has a number of policies and practices related to green transport, these include:

loans to staff to purchase public transport season tickets;

staff who use public transport can also get a loan to purchase a car park season ticket at their station;

loans to staff to purchase cycles; and

promoting our video conferencing facilities to reduce travel between our Belfast and London offices.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is actively managing its extensive fleet of vehicles to ensure that it is run as efficiently and effectively as possible.

As the Department cannot eliminate the need for staff to fly, we participate in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund to offset emissions from official and ministerial air travel. We are currently working with colleagues in the NI Departments on the Stormont Estate to produce a single workplace travel plan that will look to encourage alternatives to use of the car, including discussing with Translink possible improvements to public transport, looking at park and ride schemes and promoting car sharing, walking and cycling.

Domestic Violence: Sexual Offences

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many domestic abuse offences involved a sexual assault on *(a)* a current partner, *(b)* a former partner and *(c)* a child in (i) A District Command Unit area, (ii) B District Command Unit area and (iii) Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (A) sex and (B) age of victim. [207762]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows recorded crimes with a domestic motivation broken down by age and sex of victim. Due to a change in systems, comparable statistics are available only from 2004-05. The Police Service for Northern Ireland has advised that it is not possible to provide figures broken down by relationship.

Recorded crimes with a domestic motivation: Offences involving a sexual assault by gender and age of victims: A and B districts and Northern Ireland 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Females 17 and over	Males 17 and over	Children under 17	Gender/age unknown	Total offences
A district					
2004-05					
Rape inc. attempts	3	0	2	0	5
Indecent assaults	0	0	0	0	0
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	3	0	2	0	5
2005-06					
Rape inc. attempts	6	0	0	0	6
Indecent assaults	5	0	1	0	6
Other sexual offences	1	0	0	1	2
Total sexual offences	12	0	1	1	14
2006-07					
Rape inc. attempts	5	0	3	0	8
Indecent assaults	3	0	4	0	7
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	8	0	7	0	15
2007-08					
Rape inc. attempts	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assaults	3	0	0	0	3
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	3	0	0	0	3
B district					
2004-05					
Rape inc. attempts	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assaults	3	0	2	0	5
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	3	0	2	0	5
2005-06					
Rape inc. attempts	3	0	1	0	4
Indecent assaults	5	0	0	0	5
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	1	1
Total sexual offences	8	0	1	1	10
2006-07					
Rape inc. attempts	2	0	1	0	3
Indecent assaults	2	0	1	0	3
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	4	0	2	0	6
2007-08					
Rape inc. attempts	4	0	0	0	4
Indecent assaults	2	0	2	0	4
Other sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Total sexual offences	6	0	2	0	8

Recorded crimes with a domestic motivation. Offences involving a sexual assault by gender and age of victims. A and B districts and Northern Ireland 2004-05 to 2007-08

	Females 17 and over	Males 17 and over	Children under 17	Gender/age unknown	Total offences
Northern Ireland					
2004-05					
Rape inc. attempts	23	0	3	0	26
Indecent assaults	17	0	12	0	29
Other sexual offences	1	0	0	0	1
Total sexual offences	41	0	15	0	56
2005-06					
Rape inc. attempts	29	0	10	0	39
Indecent assaults	26	0	13	0	39
Other sexual offences	1	0	4	3	8
Total sexual offences	56	0	27	3	86
2006-07					
Rape inc. attempts	39	0	8	0	47
Indecent assaults	20	0	25	0	45
Other sexual offences	2	0	3	0	5
Total sexual offences	61	0	36	0	97
2007-08					
Rape inc. attempts	28	1	11	0	40
Indecent assaults	24	0	28	0	52
Other sexual offences	4	1	1	0	6
Total sexual offences	56	2	40	0	98

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role the Police Service of Northern Ireland plays in counselling and advising victims of domestic abuse; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that role. [207759]

Paul Goggins: Uniformed officers attending domestic incidents will speak to the victim to inquire about the circumstances that lead to the reporting of the incident. In following up incidents, Domestic Abuse Officers will signpost the victim to relevant agencies, according to his or her needs. Police officers do not counsel victims of domestic abuse, but provide information and refer them to more appropriate support agencies, such as Women's Aid, the Men's Advisory Project or Victim Support.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Adam Price: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what competition events of the London Olympics 2012 will be held outside London. [210750]

Tessa Jowell: The competition events of the London Olympics 2012 which will be held outside London are canoe/kayak slalom at Broxbourne, flatwater canoe/kayak at Eton Dorney, rowing at Eton Dorney, sailing at Weymouth, football at Old Trafford, Millennium Stadium, St James' Park, Hampden Park and Villa Park.

Weald Country Park in Essex was approved as the 2012 mountain biking venue by the International Cycling Federation (UCI) in 2004. In June 2006 the UCI expressed reservations on the suitability of the site and have requested a more challenging course. LOCOG are working with Essex county council to look at other possible venues within Essex that meet the new requirements of the sport as well as the venue's location.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208571]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on postage by destination or delivery compan[illegible]

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department's green transport plan was introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of this plan. [209236]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is an associated office of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The MoJ are currently developing a sustainable development action plan which includes an action to produce a green transport plan. A copy of the MoJ transport plan will be placed within the Library when complete.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the amount of capital gains tax was on the relevant rollover for the residents of each unitary authority area of Wales in each financial year since 1998. [211029]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Car Allowances: Voluntary Work

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the rates of approved mileage allowance payments for motorists who are volunteer drivers. [211346]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 12 November 2007 and the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 28 April 2008.

HMRC allows volunteers to use the approved mileage allowance payment (AMAP) rate for convenience, but it is not mandatory and volunteer drivers can claim tax relief for the full cost of motoring by completing a return, if they wish to do so.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [208494]

Angela Eagle: Subject to any necessary adjustments following the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit of the Treasury's resource account, net spending on external legal advice in 2007-08 was £1,331,000.

For spending in earlier years I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the former Financial Secretary my hon. Friend for Wentworth (John Healey) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1496W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) and on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1738W, to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies).

Departmental Property

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised by his Department by the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [208492]

Angela Eagle: No departmental property was sold in the last five years.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [208493]

Angela Eagle: No properties were let during the last five years.

Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much food waste his Department generated in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208130]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on food waste generated by the Department are only available for the past three years. The figures are:

January to December each year	*Kilograms*
2005	8,785
2006	5,125
2007	5,375

A food waste recycling programme was introduced in March 2008. Through this, food waste is removed from the building and transported to a biogas plant where it is subjected to an anaerobic digestion process. In addition, the process produces fertilizer and electricity as by-products.

Government Departments: Buildings

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of new leasing arrangements for buildings occupied by Government *(a)* Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies were (i) new leases and (ii) renewals of existing leases in each of the last five years. [210188]

Angela Eagle: The information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of buildings newly procured for use by Government *(a)* Departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies were (i) rented, (ii) leased, (iii) purchased and (iv) acquired under a private finance initiative or public-private partnership arrangement in each of the last five years. [210189]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made by the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Procurement in the Office of Government Commerce in *(a)* drawing up a delivery plan and milestones for meeting the targets for the sustainable operations on the Government estate and *(b)* implementing the sustainable procurement action plan. [210728]

Angela Eagle: The Government will publish a delivery plan in the summer. This will set out: progress to date in implementing its Sustainable Procurement Action Plan and its targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate; and its forward action plans and trajectories.

Lorries: Foreign Companies

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial contribution foreign heavy goods vehicles make to maintaining the British road network. [209893]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 11 June 2008]*: EU law is clear that member state policy measures may not inhibit the freedom of movement of goods and may not discriminate (directly or indirectly) according to nationality of haulier or the origin or destination of a vehicle. This of itself precludes any lump-sum tax levied specifically on entry to the UK.

The Government along with industry representatives looked at foreign activity as part of the industry study undertaken by the 2006 Haulage Industry Task Group. The conclusions showed that cabotage activity (foreign operators picking up and dropping off the same load within the UK) accounted for around 1 per cent. of domestic road freight movements.

Following the conclusion of the recent Freight Data Feasibility Study, the Government decided against taking forward a vignette scheme due to the limited benefits achievable when compared to the costs. It was decided that greater benefits are achievable through other measures, and to this extent the Department for Transport recently announced an additional £24.3 million on enforcement spending, targeting those on international trips—those less likely to comply with UK road safety law.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 21 April 2008, on Northern Rock, PO Ref: 1/56466/2008. [210852]

Kitty Ussher: I have replied to the hon. Member

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 29 April 2008, on Tax Office investigations. [210853]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member on 12 June 2008, and apologised for the delay.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reassess the decision to close the HM Revenue and Customs office at Lingmell House in Chorley. [210216]

Jane Kennedy: My answers to the hon. Gentleman's earlier questions of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 896W, explained that the decision to close the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Chorley was made after extensive consultation and detailed feasibility work. Nothing has changed to warrant revisiting the decision. HMRC's plans do not envisage any business requirement to retain the Chorley office, with the exception of its inquiry centre services, which will continue to be offered either from the current building or one nearby.

Revenue and Customs: Southend on Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last visited HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea; and if he will make a statement. [210610]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not visited the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea. Treasury Ministers make regular visits to HM Revenue and Customs offices around the country.

VAT: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual income to Exchequer funds which would arise from ending the exemption from value added tax of aviation. [209942]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 June 2008]*: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold sufficient information with which to estimate the revenue impacts from applying different rates of VAT to the aviation sector, even if our international agreements allowed the UK to do so. However, under the normal rules of the tax, any additional VAT that might be incurred by a VAT registered airline or other VAT registered business could be reclaimed to the extent that it relates to their taxable business activities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Females: Olympic Games 2012

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government has taken to promote the employment of women as part of the preparation for and delivery of the Olympic Games. [209043]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 5 June 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) through its equality and diversity strategy ensures that all the processes used to recruit and manage employees (including within the supply chain) are demonstrably fair. The ODA will make reasonable adjustments where necessary and offer equal opportunities to all.

Women will benefit through the Women into Construction project which the ODA and the London Development Agency have developed. This focuses on supporting women wishing to work directly on the construction programme for the 2012 Games.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has a strong diversity and inclusion policy for the recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers that covers gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age. This will be regularly monitored for its effectiveness, and builds on the prominence of diversity and equality as key components of London's bid for the Games. LOCOG also requests equal opportunities policies from potential suppliers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [205790]

Mr. Timms: For the period 2008-09 there were 37 foundation apprenticeships and 49 advanced apprenticeships undertaken in the Department.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans his Department has for its services at Sunley House, Aylesbury; [208574]

(2) how many staff are employed in each of his Department's offices in Aylesbury; whether he plans to change those staff numbers; and if he will make a statement. [208575]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your questions asking what plans his Department has for its services at Sunley House, Aylesbury and how many staff are employed in each of his Department's offices in Aylesbury; whether he plans to make changes to those staff numbers; and if he will make a statement. I am replying on behalf of Ms Strathie in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

The Department currently has two offices in Aylesbury. The Jobcentre Plus office in Heron House provides customer facing Jobcentre services to local people. A total of 35 staff are employed at this site.

A second Jobcentre Plus office in Sunley House provides Social Fund services to customers across the South East by telephone or by post. A total of 63 staff are employed there; 41 of these are permanent staff and 22 are employed on either casual or fixed term contracts which are due to end in December 2008.

We have now acquired sufficient space to house the Sunley House operations in Bowback House, Milton Keynes. We plan to move Social Fund work from Sunley House to Milton Keynes Benefit Delivery Centre by 31 March 2009.

All Social Fund staff in Sunley House will be given the opportunity to redeploy to Milton Keynes Benefit Delivery Centre and will be given advice and support to help them decide whether this is what they wish to do, including the option of trying out working in Milton Keynes on a temporary detached duty basis. A number of staff have already successfully transferred to Milton Keynes. Staff will also be able to apply for other DWP vacancies at Aylesbury Jobcentre.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208092]

Mr. Timms: The Department has issued guidance telling staff to switch off PCs, monitors and all peripherals at night, at weekends and during the day when staff leave their desks for a meeting or for lunch.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he estimates will be spent on each type of employment and support allowance in each of the next five years. [209311]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 6 June 2008]*: Employment and support allowance expenditure forecasts split by the Work Related Activity Group and the Support Group are not available. The following table presents estimates of total employment and support allowance expenditure covering the Government's spending plan period up to 2010-11.

Employment and support allowance: estimated benefit expenditure

			£ million, nominal terms
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Employment and support allowance	430	1,540	2,840
Of which:			
Contributory	200	660	1,170
Income-based	230	890	1,670

Notes:
1. The estimates of employment and support allowance are also available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Employment and support allowance will be introduced in October 2008.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants he expects there to be of employment and support allowance in each of the next five years, broken down by type of employment and support allowance. [209691]

Mr. Timms: Employment and Support Allowance caseload forecasts split by the Work Related Activity Group and the Support Group are not available. However, we expect some 10 per cent. of new Employment and Support Allowance customers to be placed in the Support Group, rising to at least 20 per cent. in the future Employment and Support Allowance stock. Information about estimates of total Employment and Support Allowance caseloads to the end of the Government's spending plans are in the following table.

Employment and support allowance: estimated benefit caseload

	Number (thousand)
2008-09	100
2009-10	280
2010-11	480

Notes:
1. The estimates of employment and support allowance combined with incapacity benefit caseloads are also available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Employment and support allowance will be introduced in October 2008.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Employment: Hearing Impaired

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Department is taking to enable deaf people to remain in or return to work. [208157]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1301W.

Jobcentre Plus: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* interim payments of pension and *(c)* interim payments of benefits were paid to Jobcentre Plus customers in Dorset and Somerset through the out-of-hours service in the last six months for which information is available. [206552]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves dated 13 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of crisis loans, interim payments of pension and interim payments of benefits which were paid to Jobcentre Plus customers in Dorset and Somerset in the last six months for which information is available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

There is no national requirement to collate data relating to the number of crisis loans received on an area by area basis.

However since 1 November 2007 a total of 56,595 Crisis Loan applications were received by the Social Fund Benefit Delivery Centre at Bristol which has responsibility for the South West area, including Dorset and Somerset.

A total of 29,164 crisis loan applications were successful and received payment for the period 1 December 2007 to 31 March 2008 (data for November 2007 and April 2008 is unavailable). It is not possible to advise what proportion of these figures relates to Dorset and Somerset.

Similarly, there is no national requirement to collate data relating to the number of interim payments made.

However both the benefit delivery centres responsible for Dorset and Somerset do retain some data for their own analytical purposes. The benefit delivery centre at Exeter made 24 interim payments in the last six months comprising income support, jobseeker's allowance and incapacity benefit. The benefit delivery centre at Chippenham made a total of six, comprising income support and jobseeker's allowance.

Jobcentre Plus offices in Dorset and Somerset do make counter payments on behalf of The Pension Service but these are made due to late payments and are not interim payments of pension.

Jobseekers Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 to 24 year olds have spent more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five or more years, not necessarily continuously in each case, claiming jobseekers allowance. [209701]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter of 25 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on a constituent, Mrs Hewitson of Peterhead. [207209]

Mrs. McGuire: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 6 June 2008.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people, *(b)* young people, *(c)* lone parents, *(d)* people over 25 years old and *(e)* people over 50 years old participated in the new deal in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in 2007. [208366]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people starting new deals in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, north-east Jobcentre Plus region and Great Britain in 2007

	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal 50 plus*	*All new deals*
Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency	450	350	410	40	1,650
South Tyneside local authority area	980	860	900	50	3,400
North East Jobcentre Plus Region	11,950	8,560	11,080	790	40,130
Great Britain	169,840	126,080	206,960	13,230	579,570

Notes:

1. Information on new deal is available for Great Britain, not the UK.
2. Information for South Tyneside is available by local authority area.
3. Information for the north-east is available by Jobcentre Plus region.
4. Information for new deal as a whole includes, where available, data for new deal for disabled people and new deal for partners. Individual new deal figures may thus not sum to totals.
5. Information is for individuals. If a person has started new deal more than once, only their latest start is included in the table.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Older Workers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of working people aged 50 years and over have a limiting long-standing illness and level 2 qualification, (b) a limiting long-standing illness and no level 2 qualification, *(c)* no limiting long-standing illness but have a level 2 qualification and *(d)* no limiting long-standing illness and no level 2 qualification. [208278]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 4 June 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of working people aged 50 years and over have (a) a limiting long-standing illness and level 2 qualification (b) a limiting long-standing illness and no level 2 qualification (c) no limiting long-standing illness but have a level 2 qualification and (d) no limiting long-standing illness and no level 2 qualification. (208278)

Statistics on people with health problems or disabilities, by labour market status and level of qualification attained, are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). All working age people are asked whether they have any health problems or disabilities that they expect to last for more than a year and if either their day-to-day activities or employment are consequently affected.

The attached table gives estimates of the number and proportion of employed people aged 50 and over for the categories requested. The data provided covers the three month period ending March 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People in employment aged 50 and over[1] *by disability status and education level, three months ending March 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

Thousand, except where indicated

	Below level 2 qualification[2] [3]	*Level 2 qualification and above*[2]	*Total*
Number of people with:			
Long-term health problem/disability[4]	537	892	1,429
No long-term health problem/disability	1,761	3,401	5,162
Total	2,297	4,293	6,591
As a percentage of all people in employment aged 50 and over:			
Long-term health problem/disability[4]	8	14	22
No long-term health problem/disability	27	52	78
Total	35	65	100

[1] Men aged 50 to 64 and women aged 50 to 59

[2] People are counted as being qualified to level 2 if they have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C, an intermediate GNVQ, two or three AS levels, an NVQ level 2 or equivalent vocational qualification or a trade apprenticeship

[3] Includes people with no qualifications.

[4] Includes people with a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they could do, or both

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension schemes became ineligible for Pension Protection Fund levies in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08. [184211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in replying; the information is not available in the form requested.

Section 126 of the Pensions Act 2004 and regulations made under it set out the eligibility criteria for pension protection fund levies; in broad terms, occupational pension schemes which are not money purchase schemes or otherwise exempted by legislation are eligible schemes as long as they had not begun to w[illegible]p when the PPF opened for business in April 200[illegible]

In the 2007 update of the [illegible]rple Book—defined benefit pensions universe risk profile—published on 18 December 2007, the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) estimates that its eligible defined-benefit (DB) universe was around 7,800 schemes.

Pension schemes may become ineligible for Pension Protection Fund (PPF) levies for a number of reasons. For example, a scheme would become ineligible if its trustees entered into a compromise with the sponsoring employer to reduce the debt the employer owed the scheme, without the Board of the PPF's agreement. A scheme could also become ineligible if it only had two members and one of those died—as schemes with fewer than two members are not eligible schemes. A scheme would also cease to be an eligible scheme if it completed winding up.

The Board of the PPF only holds data on the eligible scheme universe: if a scheme is ineligible it will be recorded only with the pensions regulator. Provision of the correct information by schemes is of course essential, and the two organisations work closely together to ensure consistent data. However, if a scheme is invoiced for the pension protection levy and later demonstrates that it was ineligible, the Board will refund any sums paid.

Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 a total of 9,084 schemes notified the pensions regulator that the scheme had completed wind-up. Of these, 675 were defined benefit schemes and 139 were hybrid schemes, and the balance (8,270) were defined contribution schemes. 814 of these schemes (the DB and hybrid ones) would until that point have been eligible for PPF levies, providing they had not begun winding up before the PPF opened for business in April 2005.

Similar information for 2006-07 could not be provided without disproportionate cost. However, improvements in the way scheme data are collected will mean that similar information for 2007-08 and beyond will be available.

Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pensioners were resident in the UK in each year between 1997 and 2008; and how many of each are expected to be resident in the UK in each year between 2009 and 2030. [209355]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 June 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pensioners were resident in the UK each year between 1997 and 2008, and how many of each are expected to be resident in the UK between 2009 and 2030. I am replying in her absence. [209355]

Provided below is a table showing the population of state pensionable age for 1997 to 2030, for the United Kingdom, by sex. The figures up to and including 2006 are population estimates.

The latest population projections are 2006-based and have been used to provide the estimated population of state pensionable age from 2007 to 2030.

These figures are based on the state pension age applicable in each year so they take into account the forthcoming increases in state pension age.

Persons of state pensionable age[1] by sex—United Kingdom

Millions

	Males	*Females*
Population estimates		
1997	3.8	6.9
1998	3.8	6.9
1999	3.8	6.9
2000	3.9	6.9
2001	3.9	6.9
2002	4.0	6.9
2003	4.0	7.0
2004	4.1	7.0
2005	4.1	7.1
2006	4.2	7.2
Population projections[2]		
2007	4.2	7.2
2008	4.2	7.3
2009	4.3	7.5
2010	4.4	7.6
2011	4.5	7.6
2012	4.7	7.5
2013	4.8	7.4
2014	5.0	7.4
2015	5.1	7.3
2016	5.3	7.2
2017	5.4	7.1
2018	5.5	7.0
2019	5.6	7.0
2020	5.7	6.9
2021	5.8	6.9
2022	5.9	7.0
2023	6.0	7.1
2024	6.2	7.2
2025	6.2	7.3
2026	6.2	7.3
2027	6.2	7.3
2028	6.3	7.4
2029	6.4	7.6
2030	6.6	7.7

[1] Between 2010 and 2020, state pension age will change from 65 years for men and 60 for women, to 65 years for both sexes. Between 2024 and 2026, state pension age will increase from 65 years to 66 years for both sexes.

[2] 2006-based national population projections.

TICC Ltd: Redundancy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees were made redundant when TICC Ltd went into liquidation; how many received compensation from public funds; what the basis of calcuation of the compensation payments was; and under what statutory authority the payments were made. [189633]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the previous Department of Social Security and the employment elements of the Department for Education and Employment. The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold records relating to either the terms of the transfer of these former Department for Employment staff in 1990 or to any associated compensation payments.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle long-term youth unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [207830]

Mr. Timms: As a result of our successful policies, youth claimant unemployment is at a historic low. The New Deal for Young People has helped to virtually eradicate youth long-term claimant unemployment, with the numbers of young job seekers unemployed for a year or more down from 91,000 in March 1997 to 5,900 in March 2008.

The Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support young people to make the transition from education and training into work and to engage with 18-year-olds with a previous history of being not in education, employment or training. From April this year 18-year-olds with any past history of being not in education, employment or training can, by agreement with their personal adviser, be fast tracked on a voluntary basis to the Gateway stage of the New Deal for Young People.

From April 2009, we will take this approach further by making fast tracking to the more intensive, adviser-led support stage of the flexible New Deal mandatory for 18-year-olds who have spent at least six months not in education, employment or training. The flexible New Deal and refreshed Jobseeker's Allowance programme will be a key element in a welfare system in which, increasingly, claimants are not passive recipients of benefits, but instead active job seekers preparing for a return to work in which they will be better off.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable has been set for agreement on funding arrangements for welfare to work proposals with HM Treasury; and if he will make a statement. [208667]

Mr. Timms: We have set out our intention to come forward with welfare reform proposals for a 4th session Bill, and funding decisions will be made as part of that process in conjunction with HM Treasury.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether winter fuel payments are payable to pensioners living outside the UK; and what representations he has received on this matter. [209142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Winter fuel payments are paid to former UK residents living outside the UK but within the European economic area only if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

There are regular representations on this issue in the form of correspondence and parliamentary questions. Following recent interest, I asked departmental lawyers and officials to fully re-examine the reasons for paying winter fuel payments to former UK residents now living elsewhere in the European economic area. Under European Union law, some benefits acquired in one member state must be paid to people who live outside that state but within the European economic area. Winter fuel payments are one of these benefits and the UK is bound by European Union law. To comply with European law we must continue to pay winter fuel payments to former UK residents living elsewhere in the European economic area if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Questions *(a)* 190580 and *(b)* 190581, on the New Deal, tabled on 26 February. [195592]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* I replied to my right Hon. Friend's questions as follows; to 190580 on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2008W and to 190581 on 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2361-62W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 June 2008

WALES

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210980]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not produce separate chart of accounts or resource accounts.

As a small Department we use the financial accounting services of Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and adopt MOJ chart of accounts and resource account codes and usage.

We do have an operating cost unit of 40 and business entity codes within the MOJ chart of accounts as tabled:

Business entity codes	
WA100	Wales Private Office
WA105	Wales Policy Office
WA110	Welsh Assembly
WY100	GPC Management—Wales

MOJ will be placing copies in the Library.

Wales Office accounts are included within the MOJ resource accounts under Request for Resources (RfR) 3.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on training courses for staff in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [210570]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Information on spending by my Department is held by financial year. On training my Department spent £7,300 in 2007-08 and £55,800 in the last five years.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210585]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information is as follows:

(a) Wales Office staff can access a wide range of training courses and other learning opportunities. These are delivered in a number of ways, through both internal and external providers including the Welsh Assembly Government, Ministry of Justice and National School of Government.

(b) Some training courses are provided corporately, at no cost to the Wales Office, and need only be agreed locally with line, managers, information on every course taken is not collated centrally, and so is not readily available.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 953W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fair Trade products. [211562]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Financial information for my Office is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Refreshments are ordered as part of office supplies in general and their cost is not identified separately.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any home information packs have been commissioned by his Department. [211929]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has commissioned no home information packs.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales on a legislative competence order for the Welsh language; what his policy is on the operation of the Welsh Language Act 1993; what representations he has received on the provision of public services in the Welsh language in each of the last three years; and what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the extent of demand for the provision of public services in the Welsh language. [210553]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have had a number of recent discussions with the First Minister regarding the proposal for an Order on the Welsh language. The Welsh Language Act 1993 provides a practical framework to promote and develop the use of the Welsh language in Wales. It has proved an effective tool in ensuring Welsh speakers are able to receive key public services in Welsh.

The Wales Office has recorded some 20 representations on the provision of public services in the Welsh language in the last three years. In the first year, these broadly covered Welsh language schemes, translation services, utility bills in Welsh and the use of Welsh in the European Union. In the second year, issues raised included the use of Welsh in the domestic energy sector and provision of Welsh language services in prisons. Issues raised over the last year have included the provision of translation services and future statutory provision on the Welsh Language.

I have not commissioned any recent research on the demand for the provision of public services in Welsh.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments the Equality and Human Rights Commission has made to *(a)* Four Communications plc and *(b)* APCO Worldwide since its creation; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [202269]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) No payments were made by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to Four Communications plc.

(b) There is a fixed fee agreement with ACPO Worldwide to the value of £65,000 plus VAT for work covering campaigning, media advice and communications planning, however no payments have been made as yet.

Equal Pay: Civil Servants

John Bercow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had on the gender pay gap in the civil service. [204307]

Barbara Follett: In January this year, I met with ministerial colleagues to discuss the subject of equal pay in the public sector, including the civil service. Action from this meeting is still ongoing, and further ones are likely to be held on the same subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Vote Bundle

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members have the Vote Bundle delivered to their office within the parliamentary estate. [211085]

Nick Harvey: 190 hon. and right hon. Members have elements of the Vote Bundle delivered to their offices at their request.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Delivery Authority: Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for the services provided by the Olympic Delivery Authority to be provided in the Welsh language; and if she will make a statement. [210534]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has not received any requests for its services to be translated into the Welsh language. In relation to ODA publications, the ODA will translate its publications on request into alternative languages.

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the 2012 London Olympic Games on the black country. [210069]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working to ensure that the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK. They have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work chaired by Charles Allen. The Black Country Consortium Ltd. is a key stakeholder on the West Midlands Leadership Group for the 2012 Games to ensure that the people of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton are fully engaged.

The ODA has already awarded 26 contracts to companies registered in the west midlands including a number of black country businesses who have won contracts related to the regeneration programme around the Olympic Park.

Black country businesses are being encouraged to sign up to the CompeteFor system through a series of business briefings being held across the west midlands region. Over 75 businesses attended the recent CompeteFor workshop held in the west midlands. Businesses in every constituency should be encouraged to sign up and get support to compete for and win contracts.

Additionally, two facilities from the black country—Aldersley Leisure Village in Wolverhampton and the University of Wolverhampton—offering four sports/disciplines, are to be included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Floods: Norfolk

Norman Lamb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners when the Church Commissioners were informed of the proposals set out by Natural England regarding the future maintenance of flood defences in North Norfolk; and what estimate the Commissioners have made of the number of churches at risk of flooding should the proposals be implemented. [210419]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Archbishops' Council's Cathedrals and Church Buildings division is aware of these proposals but was not formally involved in discussions with Natural England.

There is no central estimate of the number of churches at risk of flooding; this would be a matter for individual dioceses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the selling of recreational fishing tackle. [211039]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill will include a ban on the use of gaffs and tailers when fishing for migratory or freshwater fish in inland waters or in the six nautical mile zone around the coast of England and Wales. DEFRA does not, however, propose to regulate the selling of fishing tackle.

Batteries: EU Action

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on the implementation of the EU Batteries Directive. [210054]

Joan Ruddock: Responsibility for implementation is being shared between DEFRA and BERR; DEFRA is leading on the portable/household battery provisions, while BERR is leading on the automotive/industrial batteries and single market provisions. BERR is the overall lead Department.

A first consultation on proposals on ways to implement the directive was jointly published by DEFRA, BERR and the devolved Administrations of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on 21 December and closed on 13 March. We are currently preparing a joint official response.

A second consultation with draft regulations will follow in late summer.

As part of the BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste) programme run by DEFRA, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) was asked to pilot collection schemes. WRAP worked in partnership with a range of local authorities, not for profit organisations and others to assess options for cost effective UK household battery collection. The results of these trials will help the Government and battery producers identify the best mechanisms and most efficient methods of collection that could be rolled out across the UK. WRAP'S report is due to be published shortly.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward amendments to the Climate Change Bill to provide for the appropriate level of carbon dioxide emission reductions required from transport within the non-traded emissions sector to be determined. [211445]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Second Reading debate of the Climate Change Bill on 9 June 2008.

Climate Change

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of any increase in global temperatures of greater than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial mean temperatures on *(a)* provisions of food and water, *(b)* flooding and *(c)* migration. [211024]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* An evaluation of the implications of such an increase in global temperatures on provisions of food and water and flooding, can be found in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This is available online.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has assessed on the likely level of stabilisation of global temperatures in relation to pre-industrial mean temperatures; what estimate he has made of the likely range of stabilisation temperatures; and what steps he plans to take to reduce the probability of stabilisation at the upper end of the temperature range. [211463]

Mr. Woolas: Our assessment of future climate change comes from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2007 Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). Warming over this century will be dependent on future human emissions of greenhouse gases.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of household waste was recycled in each London borough in the most recent period for which figures are available. [210492]

Joan Ruddock: The household recycling and composting rates for all London boroughs are calculated from data submitted to WasteDataFlow by local authorities for the period July to September 2007. This is the most recent period for which data are available. See footnote for exceptions.

Recycling and composting rates are affected by seasonal variation in waste generation and therefore the rates for the financial year 2007-08 may be notably different to the figures given in the following table.

Household recycling and composting rate July to September 2007

Authority	*Percentage*
Barking and Dagenham	21.50
Barnet	33.93
Bexley	44.17
Brent	21.65
Bromley	34.48
Camden	23.35
City of London	32.29
Croydon	23.38
Ealing	28.32
Enfield	29.33
Greenwich	27.22
Hackney	20.70
Hammersmith and Fulham[1]	23.63
Haringey	27.31
Harrow	39.02
Havering	24.04
Hillingdon	36.38
Hounslow	23.35
Islington	24.54
Lambeth[1]	23.10
Lewisham	20.97
Merton	26.08
Newham	13.88
Redbridge	22.25
Richmond upon Thames	35.75

Household recycling and composting rate July to September 2007

Authority	*Percentage*
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea[1]	24.28
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	23.95
Southwark	18.88
Sutton	35.43
Tower Hamlets	13.50
Waltham Forest	32.78
Wandsworth[1]	22.87
Westminster City Council	21.48

[1] Recycling rates for these authorities are not available for July to September 2007. The figures are the recycling rates available for the most recent period, April 2006 to March 2007.

Flood Control

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the relative standards of protection against flood risk in rural and urban areas; and if he will make a statement. [209364]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is currently updating its National Flood Risk Assessment and this will enable an assessment of the differences in standards of protection for rural and urban areas. Government investment is prioritised to maximise reduction in risk.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the 15 urgent recommendations of the Pitt review on the summer floods of 2007 have been implemented; how many of the interim conclusions of the Pitt review have been implemented; and how many of the additional 20 interim conclusions of the Pitt review published on 4 March 2000 have been implemented. [210431]

Mr. Woolas: The Government agreed with the 15 urgent recommendations set out in the interim Pitt report. Significant progress has been made with all of them and Sir Michael reviewed our progress with them in April 2008. His review can be found on the Cabinet Office website.

The Government contributed DEFRA's views on the additional 92 interim conclusions to Sir Michael, many of which are already in progress, and looks forward to receiving his final report.

Flood Control: Felixstowe

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* hon. and right hon. Members on the adequacy of Felixstowe's flood defences in the last five years; and what actions he took in response to such representations. [209871]

Mr. Woolas: According to departmental records, in the last five years Suffolk Coastal district council have written to DEFRA about the adequacy of Felixstowe's flood defences on three occasions. Ministers have also held two meetings with the right hon. Member on the adequacy of Felixstowe's flood defences during this period: in March 2006 with the then Secretary of State and in October 2006 with the then Minister of State.

The issues associated with these representations were focused on the Felixstowe flood defences and no action was taken other than providing clarification of the procedures in place, since these provide a fair and transparent means of prioritising funding to projects.

Floods: Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 730W, on Flood Control: Finance, for what reasons insurance companies do not have direct access to data from the national flood and coastal defence database. [208450]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Defence Database contains some information about individuals such as names and addresses. Insurance companies are therefore not permitted direct access to this information as it falls under the Data Protection Act 1998.

In order for insurance companies to have direct access, significant changes would have to be made to the database to ensure that access to personal information is limited.

Forests: International Cooperation

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's objectives are for the forthcoming G8 Environment Ministerial in Kobe, Japan; and whether he will be seeking an agreement to address illegal logging. [209369]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs attended this meeting on 24 to 26 May.

The three agenda items were climate change, biodiversity (covering illegal logging issues) and the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). The meeting produced a Chair's Summary, as well as agreeing a '3R Action Plan' and a 'Call to Action on Biodiversity', linked to a 'G8 Forests Experts' Report on Illegal Logging' that includes a menu of actions for G8 members to address illegal logging collectively and individually. These documents are publicly available on the website of Japan's Ministry of the Environment.

At the meeting, the UK made contributions on each of the three items.

On climate change, the Secretary of State's overall aim was to give impetus to the G8 summit and to engage in dialogue with G8+8 countries on climate change issues. There was a positive discussion on long-term climate goals which should send an appropriately strong signal to the G8 summit and a good discussion on carbon markets, with several parties explaining their intentions on national cap and trade schemes. There was also agreement to a further dialogue—the Kobe process—which will provide a valuable forum for informal discussions with major emitters.

On the 3Rs, the Secretary of State underlined the importance of improving resource efficiency and promoting more sustainable products and materials at national and international level. He pointed out that implementing the England Waste Strategy 2007 is expected to lead to an annual net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 9.3 million tons of CO_2 equivalent, roughly the same as taking 3 million cars off the road each year. He stressed the need for strict compliance with the UN Basel Convention on the trans-boundary movement of waste, and for measures to promote environmentally sound ship recycling.

On biodiversity, the Secretary of State in his interventions focused particularly on forestry and illegal logging, emphasising that improved forest governance is essential to deliver reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) as well as to maintain forest biodiversity. He also underlined the importance of working to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and ensuring effective follow-up to that target.

Insulation: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the capacity of available facilities safely to capture and dispose of products containing ozone depleting substances, with particular reference to those contained within plastic foam insulation. [210701]

Mr. Woolas: The UK has some of the largest and most modern fridge treatment plants in Europe. These recover ozone-depleting substances from the fridge insulating foam and circuits, as well as, in some cases, other equipment containing ozone-depleting substances.

There are two high temperature incinerators in the UK that are used to destroy waste ozone-depleting substances.

The use of ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams has been banned in the EU since the beginning of 2004. Most of these foams are currently still in buildings. DEFRA has initiated discussions with building industry stakeholders to assess the current infrastructure available for dealing with the recovery or destruction of ozone-depleting substances in building foams and the technical and economic issues that arise.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has provided to local authorities on the appropriate disposal of low-energy light bulbs containing mercury. [211261]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has not issued specific advice to local authorities about the disposal of low energy light bulbs. The responsibilities of local authorities and producers are set out in a statutory code of practice.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs—the most common type of energy efficient bulbs) are covered by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. All local authorities in England are providing designated collection facilities for WEEE. Information about which sites take back CFLs (and other types of WEEE) is available on the recycle-more website at:

www.recycle-more.co.uk

Retailers that have joined a scheme to take back electrical and electronic equipment are funding the upgrade of local authority sites. Once CFLs have been collected, producers of the equipment have responsibility to fund treatment and recycling.

The Department has published background information on CFLs—their benefits in terms of energy efficiency as well as advice on their disposal at the end of their lives. This can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

Recycling: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which London boroughs operate a kerbside recycling scheme for residential properties. [210347]

Joan Ruddock: All London boroughs provide a kerbside collection service for recyclable material (best value performance indicator 91a). On average, 95 per cent. of households in London received a kerbside collection of at least two recyclables in 2006-07 (BV91b). The Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 requires authorities to provide a kerbside collection service of at least two recyclable materials by 31 December 2010.

Reservoirs

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to change the criteria for assessing reservoir safety from a capacity-based definition to one based on risk; and if he will make a statement. [210854]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: Reservoir safety issues are being considered by Sir Michael Pitt in his independent review of last summer's floods and I await his recommendations.

Waste Disposal: Crime

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 868W, on waste disposal: crime, for what reasons the regulations will not come into force until April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [210364]

Joan Ruddock: Proposals for strengthened powers for local authorities to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of involvement in fly-tipping form part of a wider package of measures designed to tackle illegal waste activity which has been discussed with stakeholders during the course of the last year. The Government issued a consultation document on all these measures on 13 June 2008. This consultation will end in September 2008. Allowing sufficient time for consideration of responses and detailed policy development means that the legislation will not come into force before the common commencement date in April 2009.

Water Supply: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the water reserves of *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District; and if he will make a statement. [211184]

Mr. Woolas: In Yorkshire and Humberside reservoir stocks currently stand at 86 per cent. full and groundwater levels are average for this time of year.

In south Humberside reservoir stocks are healthy, with reservoir levels at Covenham, for example, standing at 98 per cent. full. For the Leeds area specifically, stocks currently stand at 88 per cent. The Environment Agency continues to routinely monitor the situation.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Biofuels

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost of meeting the UK's provisional target under the proposed Renewable Energy Directive of 15 per cent. of total energy coming from renewable sources by 2020 with levels of use of biofuels of *(a)* 1 per cent. by volume of the road fuel market, *(b)* 5 per cent. by volume of the road fuel market, *(c)* 10 per cent. by volume of the road fuel market and *(d)* 10 per cent. of final consumption of energy used in transport. [210207]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2008]*: There could be a range of different costs to meet the UK's share of the renewable energy target, depending on a range of factors. We will be setting out initial analysis of the potential costs of meeting the target in our renewable energy consultation, which will be published over the summer.

Broadband

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of levels of take-up of broadband in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* urban areas in Scotland and *(c)* urban areas in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [208249]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament. I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Business: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the ways in which adoption of sustainable development practices and technologies is likely to affect businesses. [209331]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR jointly chaired the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance (CEMEP) into sustainability and the potential benefits of a transition to a low carbon economy. The Government published their response on 1 May. BERR has commissioned research, due to report later this month, to investigate the business opportunities for the UK in moving to a low carbon economy and is supporting work by the OECD which will enable businesses and government to better understand the impacts on the environment, and company performance, of business activity on sustainable development. BERR is also working to develop an environment-adjusted productivity measure which may in the future be used to evaluate policies at the aggregate and sectoral level. In general, all published research commissioned by the Department is made available on the website.

Copyright: Internet

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to begin a public consultation on legislative proposals to require internet service providers and rights-holders to co-operate in the prevention and detection of illegal file-sharing. [209300]

Malcolm Wicks: Our preferred option remains a voluntary solution. We are keen to see an agreement that meets the criteria of fairness, legality, effectiveness and flexibility for all the parties involved. We have to recognise, though, that our hopes for such an agreement may be too ambitious. It would be very disappointing if we have to legislate—but nobody should doubt our willingness to do so if an agreement cannot be reached.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* internet service providers, *(b)* rights holders and *(c)* consumer groups on (i) voluntary co-operation and (ii) possible legislation against illegal file sharing; and what the outcomes were of those discussions. [209304]

Malcolm Wicks: Both Ministers and officials in BERR have had meetings with a wide range of internet service providers, rights holders and representatives of consumers both in the run up to, and following, the publication of the Creative Economy Strategy Paper on 22 February 2008 in which we announced that, while voluntary commercial solutions to the problem would be preferable, we would consult on legislation that would require internet service providers and rights holders to co-operate in taking action on illegal file sharing if suitable arrangements between ISPs and relevant sectors were not forthcoming or proved insufficient. Those discussions have significantly informed our understanding of the issues involved, the potential for an industry solution and possible regulatory approaches if necessary.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of music tracks illegally downloaded in each of the last five years. [209357]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR has made no such estimates. The nature of the problem means that it is very difficult to obtain robust data on. According to studies conducted by Jupiter Research, commissioned by the BPI, 6.5 million people in the UK engaged in online music "piracy" in 2007. A separate survey by Entertainment Media Research showed that in 2007 some 43 per cent. of respondents had downloaded unauthorised music from file-sharing sites; although a different survey by Olswang into convergence reported lower figures, whereby only 14 per cent. of respondents admitted unlawfully copying music.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Finance

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating budget of the Defence Export Services Organisation was prior to its move from the Ministry of Defence to become the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation; what the current budget is of the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation; and how much of that budget was moved from the Ministry of Defence. [202235]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 6 May 2008]*: For financial year 2007-08 the net operating costs for the Defence Export Services Organisation was £12.6 million. For the current financial year, the comparable budget allocated directly to the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation for administration costs is £11.7 million.

In line with the Machinery of Government transfers, the budget for defence trade promotion was transferred from the Ministry of Defence. The total budget transferred was £19.5 million/£19.2 million/£18.0 million for 2008-09/2009-10/2010-11, reducing, in line with the cost savings recently announced by the MOD. This transfer is for the full cost of UKTI DSO including the Defence Assistance Fund, the cost of staff based in our overseas offices, and all the central overheads and support costs previously incurred by other MOD budgets.

Digital Broadcasting: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure that the Usability Action Plan on Digital Television provides for *(a)* digital teletext, *(b)* talking menus and *(c)* audio description to assist the visually impaired. [209719]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

(a) Access to digital teletext is provided for the visually impaired through equipment for use with TV sets which is produced by Portset Systems Limited. There are no plans at present to consider developments to this feature through the Usability Action Plan.

(b) A range of organisations, including RNIB and TV manufacturers, are working on the technical development of talking menus for the mainstream TV market. BERR is supportive of this work and, through the Usability Action Plan, will help in promoting such products at the appropriate time.

(c) Audio description is available through an increasing range of digital TV products. As part of the Usability Action Plan process, BERR has recently worked with Digital UK and representatives of the supply chain to launch an extension to the "digital tick", known as the Digital Logo Scoreboard. This is a label which manufacturers can choose to use on product packaging to help highlight to consumers specified features of the product, including audio description. To date, 43 products have been registered to use the scoreboard, 38 of which provide access to audio description.

Fuel Poverty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each major energy supplier has agreed with his Department to contribute towards the total agreed commitment of £225 million to tackle fuel poverty over three years. [207366]

Malcolm Wicks: The individual allocations have been calculated by reference to each company's market share based on customer account numbers. Each supplier has agreed to pay a contribution per customer account. The contribution per customer account is then multiplied by the number of customer accounts "owned" by a supplier to arrive at each supplier's contribution. A breakdown of suppliers' individual contributions cannot be made available as it contains commercially sensitive information and therefore remains confidential between the Department and the energy supplier.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government have taken to help pensioners to meet the cost of rising fuel prices. [210395]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: We are concerned about the impact of higher prices on vulnerable people including pensioners and we continue to encourage energy suppliers to adopt initiatives to mitigate their impact.

In Budget 2008, the Government said they would like to see the amount energy suppliers spend on social programmes increase to at least £150 million a year over the period ahead. A new voluntary agreement has recently been signed individually with the six major energy suppliers to treble their investment on social programmes in the next three years, reaching collective investment of £150 million by 2010-11. This will take spend to £100 million in 2008-09, £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11.

In addition, winter fuel payments helped keep 11.7 million people warm in winter 2006-07 and Budget 2008 announced an additional one-off payment of £100 to over-80s households and £50 to over-60s households in 2008-09.

Finally, in the recent Ofgem fuel poverty summit a number of new initiatives were announced to improve the way we identify and target those in fuel poverty, provide support to vulnerable customers to use the competitive market effectively and ensure that tariff differentials are fair and justified.

Insulation: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who is responsible for the safe disposal of plastic foam insulation containing ozone-depleting substances. [210517]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Article 16 of EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer includes obligations for the recovery for destruction of controlled substances, including the recovery of ozone-depleting substances from foam insulation in refrigeration equipment and, where practicable, substances contained in other products, installations and equipment. Any person having control of the controlled substances mentioned in Article 16 has a duty, under regulation 6 of The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/528), to comply with those provisions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter of 22 April 2008, transferred from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on animal testing (reference: 82241/MG). [209980]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 4 June 2008.

Methane: Reserves

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of coal-bed methane reserves in the South and North Wales coalfields. [211094]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The Department has no current estimates of coal-bed methane reserves.

Oil: Cardigan Bay

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to make a decision on oil licensing in *(a)* Cardigan Bay and *(b)* the Moray Firth following the results of the appropriate assessments; and how those decisions will be made public. [209963]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make decisions on oil or gas licensing in Cardigan Bay and the Moray Firth once my officials have had the opportunity to consider the comments received from the consultation exercise carried out earlier this year. He is not yet in a position to give a definite date.

The decisions will be made public in the normal way by announcing them on BERR's oil and gas website.

Renewable Energy: International Cooperation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration the Government have given to the proposal for the creation of an international renewable energy agency. [209767]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK attended a Preparatory Conference for the Foundation of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) hosted by Germany in April 2008. We are currently engaged in this German-led process and expect to be represented at working group meetings to be held at the end of June and September 2008.

We fully recognise the importance of renewable energy in global energy policy and are considering the merits of this proposed new international agency in the light of other existing organisations and initiatives in the field of renewable energy.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1763W, on Tidal Power: River Severn, what assessment he has made of the independence of the companies awarded the contracts for feasibility studies; and what steps he has taken to ensure that those companies have no conflicts of interest. [209496]

Malcolm Wicks: As my answer of 15 May to the hon. Member made clear, tenders for the two contracts awarded so far as part of the Severn tidal power feasibility study—for a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and for advice on finance and ownership issues—were assessed against a number of criteria, including "the independence of the contractor and ensuring that there is no conflict of interest".

Both the consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff and PricewaterhouseCoopers, to whom these contracts have respectively been awarded, made statements in their tenders to address this criterion. Their statements were probed at interview.

In the case of PricewaterhouseCoopers, no issues arose that required further consideration. Parsons Brinckerhoff provided assurances that they have no financial interests in the success of any barrage or tidal lagoon option, including their work on the Shoots barrage proposal in 2006 and 2007. My Department considered that questions of conflict of interest might nevertheless remain and, to deal with these, Parsons Brinckerhoff were asked to agree to assign any rights they might hold in respect of this work to the Secretary of State on a royalty-free basis, which they have done. They have also agreed to waive any moral rights they might have in respect of such work.

In addition, my Department is creating an independent panel of engineering experts to peer review the technical assessment of options the PB consortium is doing, with advice from the Royal Academy of Engineering and other professional institutes. Work delivered under the SEA contract will be published and publicly consulted on.

With these measures in place, my Department is fully satisfied in the independence of the PB consortium.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what analysis he has undertaken of the effect of the construction of a Severn Barrage on the archaeological footprint of the River Severn. [210144]

Malcolm Wicks: A study to investigate archaeological impacts of a Severn tidal power project is part of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) which is being carried out by a consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff

(PB). Wessex Archaeology is the specialist organisation charged with undertaking this study, including consulting relevant stakeholders, such as county archaeologists. A Call for Information, issued by PB in May, particularly requested any relevant data or research related to the effects on areas identified as of potential archaeological or cultural heritage importance.

In addition, both English Heritage and its Welsh equivalent, Cadw, are represented on the SEA steering group to ensure that the impact of any tidal range power scheme on the Severn's archaeology and heritage is properly considered.

Trade: Developing Countries

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to make progress in the Doha development round of international trade talks. [210436]

Mr. Thomas: The World Trade Organisation issued revised negotiating texts on agriculture, non agricultural market access (NAMA) and services in May. Negotiations are continuing among WTO members in Geneva.

The Government continue to work with the EU Trade Commissioner, other EU member states and other WTO members to achieve an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha round in 2008.

JUSTICE

Courts: Offensive Weapons

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued on the steps to be taken when a knife is discovered on persons attending court hearings. [208550]

Mr. Straw: Under section 139 Criminal Justice Act 1988, it is an offence to have any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed in a public place; the definition of 'public place' includes courts as a place to which the public have access. It is a defence to prove that a knife is carried for work, religious reasons or as part of a national costume. Section 139 only applies to those folding pen-knives with a blade of more than 3 in so possession of a pen-knife with a blade of this length or less is not an offence under the Act.

The powers of seizure and retention of items, and of exclusion from courts, are derived from sections 53 to 55 of the Courts Act 2003.

All knives, of whatever length, are among those items which Her Majesty's Courts Service class as prohibited items and are not permitted inside any place where court business takes place. All bladed items must be surrendered to a court security officer and if not willingly surrendered, they may be seized by those officers. If the item is not surrendered or seized, the bearer will be excluded from entry into the court or removed. The police are informed of all offensive weapons surrendered or seized and court security officers follow the advice given by them. As possession of folding pen-knife with a blade of 3 in or less is not an offence, the court security officers would not normally advise the police of these items being retained.

If a court security officer reasonably believes that a bladed item is evidence of, or in relation to, an offence, then they contact the police as soon as possible after the item was surrendered or seized and provide them with information about the item, the person carrying the item and if appropriate, any difficulties they had in obtaining the item.

The court security officer will then follow the advice of the police who may attend, dispose of the item, and take any other appropriate investigative action.

If a person requests the return of an item when he/she leaves the court building, but the court security officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the item may be evidence of, or in relation to an offence, then the person is told that under section 55(2)(b), the officer has the power to retain it for up to 24 hours or until they have sought advice from the police. Items which are lawful to possess, such as folding pen-knives with the permitted length of blade, are returned when the owner asks for them.

The Courts Act itself gives no power to retain articles beyond either the 24-hour permitted period or the later point when the owner returns to collect it. If the police do not collect the item within the permitted period or at any rate before the owner returns to collect it, then the article must be returned.

Policy guidance on all aspects of security, including detailed guidance on the powers and practice of searching, and the seizure of prohibited items, is disseminated through the document Safe and Secure to all staff and contractors. In addition, court security officers receive full training on these powers and are not appointed until assurance is provided that this has been completed satisfactorily.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210565]

Mr. Wills: Responsibility for budgets and business training linked to business objectives is devolved to managers in business groups within MOJ, and there are no overall central figures available.

Providing management and leadership training in the corporate centre last year cost £1,448,000. Due to the significant machinery of government changes over the past five years we do not have comparative figures for previous years.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210573]

Mr. Wills: No central figures for the amount of training the Department has provided is available as different business groups within the Ministry of Justice have devolved responsibility for arranging training, linked to specific business objectives. This includes induction, job skills and a range of management and leadership support.

Driving Offences: Prosecutions

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for driving in a bus lane where the defence was that the driver entered the bus lane to make way for an emergency vehicle in the last three years; and how many such prosecutions were successful. [211448]

Maria Eagle: The Court Proceedings Database held by my Department does not identify the circumstances behind each case including what the defence might have said.

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. [211045]

Maria Eagle: There have been no prosecutions under the 2003 Act since it came into force in March 2004. However, the Act is designed to help to prevent this unacceptable practice from happening in the first place and anecdotal evidence suggests that it is doing this. It is also being used to raise awareness among relevant professionals including police forces and others in the Criminal Justice System and those involved with health care, social services and the education sector so that girls at risk can be identified. There is evidence that the law is being pursued vigorously. The Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Command, for example, has specifically targeted female genital mutilation and produced a comprehensive training pack which has been disseminated widely to London's schools and many other agencies. Ultimately, educating communities to abandon the practice is the best way forward to break the cycle of mutilation and the Act continues to be widely used for that purpose.

Juries

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many jury summons were issued in each of the last five years; and of these how many potential jurors were disqualified following the results of a Police National Computer check. [210630]

Mr. Straw: The following information outlines, on a year by year basis, the total number of jury summons issued and the number of potential jurors disqualified as a result of Police National Computer (PNC) checks.

	Total jury summons issued	*Potential jurors disqualified as a result of PNC checks*
2007	482,226	207
2006	462,972	185
2005	462,633	193
2004	499,368	148
2003	527,766	139

Juries: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to compensate those who experience a loss of earnings as a result of jury service but who are self-employed or running new businesses and have as yet no track record of their earnings; and what arrangements are in place to provide appropriate levels of financial compensation for those jurors who draw a pension but also take on short-term contracted work. [211040]

Maria Eagle: All claims submitted for loss of earnings as a direct result of jury service, whether the juror is salaried, self-employed, or on temporary contracts, must be supported by the appropriate certificate or supporting documentation. Where an individual is running a new business and as yet there is no track record of earnings, some evidence of loss of earnings must be obtained, e.g. an authenticated letter from someone who would have offered work, quoting the remuneration or, other such documentary evidence that is available, subject to the approval by a senior officer at the Crown court. This is necessary to ensure that public money is spent carefully and the jury system is not open to abuse or fraud.

Limits on the allowance levels for financial loss are the same for self-employed and jurors on temporary contracts are they are for salaried jurors.

Members: Correspondence

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account the Minister of State with responsibility for Freedom of Information took of the security implications of disclosure of people's home addresses in preparing the letter dated 2 June to the hon. Member for New Forest, East on such disclosure; whether the security implications were considered as a factor in refusing disclosure of judges' home addresses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [210202]

Mr. Straw: The individuals' personal security was a factor in determining that to release the addresses would breach the privacy of the judges concerned.

Offensive Weapons: Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for offences relating to the illegal possession of knives in a public place in South Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [210692]

Mr. Straw: The number of people convicted for offences relating to the illegal possession of knives in a public place, in the South Yorkshire police force area, from 1997 to 2006 are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for the illegal possession of knives in a public place[1], in South Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

	Number
1997	53
1998	58
1999	63
2000	66
2001	114
2002	146
2003	147
2004	117
2005	169
2006	150

[1] Includes the following offences:

Having an article with blade or point in public place—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.

Having an article with blade or point on school premises—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what categories of offences have been alleged to have been committed by prisoners recalled while on the End of Custody Licence scheme. [210635]

Mr. Straw: Approximately 1 per cent. of offenders placed on End of Custody Licence have been reported to NOMS as having reoffended or alleged to have reoffended. Data on ECL release and recall which have been published monthly since the scheme began, can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm.

The categories of offences alleged to have been committed include: violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary, robbery, theft and handling, fraud and forgery, drug offences and motoring offences.

Prisons: Population

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects prison capacity in England and Wales to reach 86,000; and if he will make a statement. [210634]

Mr. Straw: I will respond to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Jack Straw to Nick Herbert:

We estimate that prison capacity in England and Wales will reach 86,000 places around September 2009.

We are expanding prison capacity by 20,000 places and aim to achieve an overall net capacity of just over 96,000 by 2014.

Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the National Offender Management Service has conducted research on the actual or predicted recidivism rates of offenders by *(a)* custodial institution, *(b)* probation service area and *(c)* local criminal justice board area. [210633]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a programme of work to look at how best to produce these data (accounting for the different types of prisons and movement of offenders between prisons). This work should be completed by the end of the financial year 2008-09.

The Ministry of Justice has developed internal management information on reoffending for use by probation areas. These data show a timely area-based reoffending measure on a different basis from the published National Statistics on reoffending. Over the next few months as part of the local area agreements process, the Ministry of Justice will be working through plans for how best and when to publish these data.

The measure shows, for each of the 42 probation areas, the proportion of those on the probation caseload who reoffended within three months and were convicted within six months of the end of every quarter. This actual rate is compared to a predicted rate of reoffending. These experimental statistics are circulated to probation areas four times a year.

Local criminal justice board areas are coterminous with probation areas.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged 18 to 24 years old reoffended within two years of leaving prison in the last five years. [210712]

Mr. Hanson: The latest statistics on re-offending published in May 2008 report the re-offending rates over a one year follow up period.

The following table shows the one-year proven re-offending rates for offenders aged 18 to 24 years old leaving prison in the first quarter for 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

	Total number of offenders	*Number of offenders that re-offended*	*Actual one-year re-offending rate (percentage)*
2000 Q1	6,048	3,705	61.3
2002 Q1	5,983	3,735	62.4
2003 Q1	5,382	3,277	60.9
2004 Q1	5,454	3,118	57.2
2005 Q1	4,932	2,704	54.8

For more information on the latest re-offending statistics, including additional information on frequency and severity of re-offending please consult:

www.justice.gov.uk/docs/re-offending-adults-2000-05.pdf

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding was allocated for apprenticeships in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. • [210[illegible]58]

Mr. Lammy: Information on Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding allocations is not available at parliamentary constituency level. The funding allocated to apprenticeships provision in Essex is provided in the following table. Local LSC funding data are only available from 2004-05.

Essex LSC apprenticeships funding allocation

£ million

	Apprenticeships funding allocation
2004-05	14.8
2005-06	13.3
2006-07	14.1
2007-08	16.4

Source:

Learning and Skills Council

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will introduce a search function on his Department's website. [211209]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is currently working with our supplier to implement a basic search facility on our existing corporate website. In addition to this, we are undergoing a project to completely redesign and upgrade the technology of our website, which is an interim solution launched following the creation of DIUS last year. We aim to launch our new site, including more advanced search functionality, in the autumn.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will publish his Department's statistical releases on its website. [211210]

Mr. Lammy: In line with the new arrangements for the release of National Statistics following the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, all statistical first releases relating to National Statistics are released through the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) website

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/.

In addition, the Department's statistical releases are released on the joint Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Research and Statistics Gateway website

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml.

The Department's main website

http://www.dius.gov.uk/

contains a link to the Research and Statistics Gateway website.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many universities require candidates for admission to undergraduate courses to sit an aptitude test; what his Department's policy is on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [210515]

Bill Rammell: HE admissions, including the use of entrance tests, are a matter for higher education institutions themselves. The Government do not have the power to direct institutions in the use of tests nor do they hold data centrally on admissions tests.

The number and range of entrance tests has, however, recently been the subject of research by the Supporting Professionalism in Admissions programme of work, who found that a relatively small number of institutions use tests (14 per cent.) and only 0.43 per cent. of courses in the UCAS scheme—there has not been a great burgeoning in usage.

It is a fundamental principle that universities should decide whom they should admit. It is important, however, that universities are open, clear and transparent about their admissions systems and policies.

We do not want to see a proliferation of admissions tests for tests sake. We would be concerned if additional tests were to impose burdens that particularly affect applicants from under-represented groups and/or schools that are less familiar with preparing leavers for higher education.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the impact of top-up fees on university drop-out rates; when his Department last undertook a review of the matter that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [210520]

Bill Rammell: Student retention rates at higher education institutions in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent. The improved student finance support package, from academic year 2008-09 onwards, demonstrates that commitment.

It is too early to determine whether the introduction of variable tuition fees has had any impact on drop-out rates in higher education. The most recent information on the standard measure for non-completion dates from 2005-06, prior to the introduction of variable tuition fees in 2006-07. However, we will explore this issue further when more relevant data are available and feed this into the evidence base for the independent review of variable fees.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution.

	Percentage
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	13.8
2002-03	13.9
2003-04	14.4
2004-05	13.8
2005-06	13.9

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

The latest available information for higher education institutions in England is shown in Table 1.

Royalties

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to how many artists of each type a resale royalty has been paid since February 2006. [211583]

Mr. Lammy: This is a question best addressed to those responsible for collecting and paying artist's resale right. I suggest my hon. Friend contacts the relevant collecting societies, who may be able to provide a breakdown of the payments they have made.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many resold artworks have been subject to the artists' resale right since February 2006; and what those works cost in total. [211584]

Mr. Lammy: According to independent research commissioned by the UK Intellectual Property Office, between 15 February 2006 and 31 July 2007, some 4,700 works sold at auction were eligible for resale right, having a value of approximately £162 million.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing university tuition fees for all undergraduate students from England studying at English universities. [209759]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to abolish university tuition fees for all undergraduate students from England studying at English universities. The income from such fees generates about £2.5 billion annually for universities and it helps them to tackle the challenges we identified in framing the new fee and student support arrangements—to maintain and improve high standards, to expand and widen access to meet rising skill needs, and to compete globally. Record numbers of undergraduate students are going to universities both generally and from non-traditional backgrounds since we introduced our reforms in 2006.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of part-time undergraduate students in England received a fee grant in the latest period for which figures are available; [206275]

(2) how many and what proportion of part-time undergraduate students in England received a course grant in the latest period for which figures are available. [206277]

Bill Rammell: Information from the Student Loans Company shows that, in the academic year 2006-07, of English domiciled part-time students, around 44,000 received fee grants and 46,000 received course grants. Each total represents around 10 per cent. of part-time undergraduate students. Part-time students need to be studying at 50 per cent. of the intensity of a full-time student to apply for both a fee and course grant.

This Government were the first to introduce statutory support for part-time students, in 2000/01. In 2006-07, we introduced the most generous package of financial support ever for part-time students in England. This included increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and an above-inflation increase in the income threshold for receiving this support. English-domiciled part time students in 2006-07 received £11 million course grant and £27 million fee grant, compared with £9 million course grant and £19 million fee grant in 2005-06.

The part-time package is different from the support available to full-time students because it has been designed to meet the particular needs of part-time students. Unlike full-time students, many part-time students are in full-time employment—two-thirds according to the Woodley report, published at the end of 2004. That report also found that 36 per cent. of part-time students receive full fee support from their employer.

Visual Arts

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate has been made by the Government of the contribution made by artists' beneficiaries to the UK art market. [211580]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have made no such estimate of the contribution to the art market of artists' beneficiaries.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made by the Government of the impact of the EU Artists Resale Rights Directive 2001/84/EC on the UK art market. [211581]

Mr. Lammy: The Government commissioned the Intellectual Property Institute to produce an independent report on this issue. I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 2 April 2008 (column 59-60WS).

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate has been made by the Government of the change in size of the UK art market since 2006. [211582]

Mr. Lammy: The Government commissioned independent research on the impact of artist's resale right on the UK art market. This, and other research, has concluded that the UK art market had grown significantly over this period.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bombs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to provide additional assistance for those affected by the use of cluster munitions overseas. [210148]

Mr. Thomas: When the cluster munitions convention comes in to force, it will be for affected countries to provide assistance to cluster munitions victims, and to seek support from international partners if necessary. The UK is already one of the world's leading donors to humanitarian demining, and since 2001 the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent over £70 million on clearing landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, and helping victims in the worst affected countries. For example, DFID has contributed over £3.5 million towards clearance of the 40 square kilometres of southern Lebanon contaminated by unexploded cluster munitions during the conflict in 2006. One of our major partners, the Mines Advisory Group, has alone cleared over 17,000 unexploded submunitions in southern Lebanon since August 2006, allowing thousands of people to return home safely.

Gambia: Health Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* type and *(b)* value of aid his Department is giving to the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre in Gambia; and if he will make a statement. [211192]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided funds to the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre in Gambia.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any estimate has been made of the number of Iraqi Christians *(a)* displaced and *(b)* killed since March 2003; and if he will make a statement. [210489]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has registered some 280,000 Iraqi refugees throughout the region. Of the total registered, approximately 42,000 are Christians.

The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) estimates that out of an assessment of over a million individuals, approximately 55,000 are Iraqi Christians who have been internally displaced since 22 February 2006.

We do not have an estimate of the number of Iraqi Christians killed since March 2003.

It is not the UK's policy to provide direct assistance to any particular religious group in Iraq. Rather, we channel our assistance through established international organisations, notably the UN, with the mandate to provide protection to all refugees regardless of ethnicity or religion. We are committed to alleviating the humanitarian situation, both for internally displaced people in Iraq and for Iraqi refugees in the region. We have committed over £149 million in humanitarian assistance to international agencies working in Iraq and the region since 2003—including £17 million for this year.

Malawi: Agriculture

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to continue the support by his Department of the subsidy for the purchase of seed and fertiliser in Malawi for farmers. [210012]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are providing £20 million to support the Government of Malawi's inputs and maize markets programme over four years (2007-2011), and indirectly about £5 million of support goes to agriculture and the inputs programme through DFID Poverty Reducing Budget Support.

As our support for the inputs and maize markets programme nears an end, we will review the programme in the light of Government of Malawi plans for the future. The President of Malawi has stated publicly that there should be a review of the programme after the election in 2009.

Natural Disasters

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings he has held with representatives of the space industry on the development of earth observation satellites to undertake monitoring work on global weather patterns to reduce the impact of natural disasters in the last 12 months. [209769]

Mr. Thomas: Although I have not held a meeting specifically to discuss the use of satellites in monitoring global weather patterns, I did meet representatives of UKSpace in June last year to discuss the benefits of space technology to development more widely. Department for International Development (DFID) officials have also met representatives of the space industry more than once over the past year. In October 2007 DFID hosted a "Space for Development" seminar, which included representatives from the British National Space Centre and the space industry.

DFID makes full use of UNOSAT, the UN programme which provides the international community with access to satellite imagery for use both in humanitarian relief and disaster prevention.

TRANSPORT

BRB: Residuary

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed by the British Railways Board (Residuary); what that body's budget was in 2007-08; and when she expects the body to be wound up. [211444]

Mr. Tom Harris: BRB (Residuary) Ltd.'s annual report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008 is currently being audited by external auditors. When this audit is complete, these accounts will be published on the company's website at www.brbr.gov.uk and will contain full financial results along with the number of staff employed for the period.

No date has been set for the formal winding up of the company.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sector for which she has policy responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [210454]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our aim is transport that works for everyone. In line with anti-discrimination legislation the Department for Transport has produced race, disability and gender equality schemes. We intend to unify these schemes into a single Equality Scheme which will also take account of other areas in which we wish to promote equality of opportunity: age, religion or belief, sexual orientation and human rights.

We have also developed regulations and issued good practice guidance to help deliver services that meet older people's mobility and personal security needs, as well as sponsoring a wide ranging research programme. Regular consultation and assessment help us monitor the effectiveness of our policies.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the cost of mutual recognition of bus concessionary travel between England and Wales. [211208]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At present we have made no detailed assessment of the cost of introducing mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes between England and Wales.

Railways: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* National Express East Anglia on disruptions caused by failures to the infrastructure on the line from Colchester to London Liverpool Street since 1 January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [211232]

Mr. Tom Harris: Department for Transport officials meet regularly with Network Rail and train operators, including National Express East Anglia, to discuss performance across the network.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average speed was of drivers successfully prosecuted for exceeding the speed limit in SPECS sites on the *(a)* M25 and *(b)* M11 in each of the last five years. [209808]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. Available information records the numbers convicted of speeding, not the speeds at which they were travelling.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Internet

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will direct the Competition Commission to review the BBC's use of its resources in the development of on-line TV services in collaboration with commercial enterprises. [210526]

Andy Burnham: Investigations are referred to the Competition Commission by various authorities with responsibility under UK competition law, such as the Office for Fair Trading or independent regulators. I have no authority to refer work to the Commission.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210566]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(i)The Department for Culture Media and Sport has spent a total of £660,804 on learning and development for the financial year 2007-08. This figure includes spending from the L&D central and delegated divisional training budgets. It also includes learning and development events organised by DCMS and accessed by staff from the Royal Parks agency.

(ii) The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency has a total learning and development spend of £3,349,724 for the last five financial years.

In the last five financial years:

	Total spend (£)
2003-04	524,000
2004-05	604,917
2005-06	780,003
2006-07	780,000
2007-08	660,804

All figures include external venue costs where these were required to deliver training events.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210574]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The training undertaken by the civil servants in DCMS within the last 12 months are:

Advanced experimental design and analysis
Annual Conference for Non-executives on Civil Service Boards
Association of Chartered Accounts (Papers F2 -F9)
Certificate in Personnel Practice
CIMA Certificate in Business Accounting
CIPD Employment Electives and People Management Development
Clean language and Symbolic Modelling
CMS/FOI
Coaching
Constructive Conversations
Diploma (Supported Further Education)
Doctorate of Business Administration
Effective Briefing
Effective Ministerial Correspondence
Effective Minute Taking
Effective selection
Equality Impact Assessment wash up session
Essential writing skills for all Civil Servants
EU Decision-making process and problem solving
Executive Masters in Business Administration
Excel 2000 Levels 1 & 2
Finance for Purchasers
Financial Aspects of Sponsorship
Gateway Reviewer
Government Economic Service Annual Conference
Government Framework
GSS AS/StO induction Course
HNC (Supported Further Education)
How Brussels works
How Government works
How Parliament works
Induction
Influential Manager
Intermediate NVQ level 3 Open Flexible Learning (AAT)
Interviewee skills
Intro to Government Finance
Intro to Programme Management
Intro to Projects in DCMS
Introduction to Purchasing
IODA
ISEB
IT Surgery
JEGS Training
Leaders UnLtd
Leading and Influencing
MA—Various (Supported Further Education)
Making Policy that Happens
Management and Personal Development for Women
Managing for the first time
MBTI Step 1 Qualifying
Mentoring
Mind Mapping Techniques
Minute taking
NLP Master class Intensive CPD weekend
Outlook
Performance Management
Personal effectiveness
Persuading and Influencing Stakeholders
PowerPoint
Presentation Skills
Prince 2 for Practitioners
Procurement and Contract management
Project basis
Project management Essentials
Risk Management and Supply Chain Vulnerability
SCS Base Camp
Stakeholder Management
Strategic Supply Chain Management
Stress Management
Succession planning and Talent Management Workshop
Team Awaydays
Time Management
Tourism Day—Using Evidence and Analysis
Use of Evidence and Analysis
Word
Young Public Sector Programme

Staff and managers identify any training requirements, including specialist, through personal development discussion. This is then submitted to learning and development for consideration that it meets the business, team and individual needs. Therefore the Department will provide any training that is relevant and has been requested.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209413]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has not introduced a green transport plan. The Royal Parks, the Department's only executive agency, is developing one.

Football: World Cup

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions the Minister for Sport has had with the Football Association (FA) on the constitution of the FA World Cup bid board; [211475]

(2) what discussions the Government's World Cup Ambassador has had with the Football Association (FA) on the constitution of the FA World Cup bid board. [211474]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government wholeheartedly support the Football Association's (FA) bid for the 2018 World Cup and we are working closely with them. I have met the FA Chairman and officials on a number of occasions, both accompanied by the Prime Minister's World Cup

Ambassador and not, to discuss all aspects of the bid, including the constitution of the bid company. I will continue to do so.

Libraries: Internet

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England offered internet access to users in each year since 1997. [210832]

Margaret Hodge: The number of libraries with access to the internet in South Tyneside, the North-East and England as published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in Public Library Statistics are detailed in the table. There are no published figures for the number of libraries with internet access in the parliamentary constituency of Jarrow.

Libraries with internet access

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
Computerised service points open for 10+ hours[1]			
1996-97	7	[2]—	[2]—
1997-98	7	[2]—	407
1998-99	7	[2]—	932
Static service points open for 10+ hours per week with internet access for public use			
1999-2000	8	[2]—	1,669
2000-01	8	[2]—	2,100
2001-02	8	173	2,416
2002-03	8	187	2,965
2003-04	8	199	3,033
2004-05	8	230	3,479
2005-06	8	229	3,500
2006-07	9	231	3,494

[1] Computerised service points do not necessarily denote that all the service points were connected to the internet

[2] Denotes no published figures for internet access

Source:

Public Library Statistics published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to answer the letter of 4 April from the hon. Member for Harwich on film archives. [210372]

Margaret Hodge: I replied to the hon. Member on 16 June 2008.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments were made to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt from *(a)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund and *(b)* the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each of the last three years. [210401]

Andy Burnham: Details of payments to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND) can be found in Note 6 of the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) annual accounts and the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) annual accounts, which can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/

or in the House Libraries. The 2007-08 accounts are expected to be laid before Parliament in October and will be placed on the Department's website and in the House Libraries at that time. A summary of amounts received in the past three years is shown in the following table.

£000

	NLDF	*OLDF*
2004-05	190	—
2005-06	179	—
2006-07	144	49

The Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) came into legal existence on 8 April 2005 under the terms of the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2005 (SI 2005/1134).

National Lottery: Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much office space was taken up by staff in his Department engaged on National Lottery Distribution Fund matters in each of the last five years. [210411]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* In 2007-08 staff in the Department engaged on National Lottery Distribution Fund matters occupied approximately 29 m^2 of office space. The Department does not hold information for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will break down by region the sites where planning applications relating to playing fields were accepted on sites that Sport England considered resulted in a detrimental impact to sport, in each year since 2001; [210441]

(2) how many planning applications relating to playing fields were accepted on sites that Sport England considered *(a)* resulted in a detrimental impact to sport and *(b)* did not result in an improvement to sport, in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [210442]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has provided the following information on the number of planning applications which *(a)* resulted in a detrimental impact to sport, and *(b)* did not result in an improvement to sport, since 2001. Sport England does not hold this information by region nor do they hold central records relating to this prior to 2001.

	Applications
2001-02	52
2002-03	76
2003-04	52
2004-05	47
2005-06	40

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many planning applications there were relating to playing fields, on which Sport England were consulted, in 2005-06, broken down by region. [210443]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the numbers of planning applications on playing fields, on which Sport England were consulted, in 2005 - 2006, by region is as follows:

Region	*Applications*
East	219
Midlands	96
London	46
North-east	80
North-west	112
South-east	259
South-west	138
West midlands	182
Yorkshire	174
Total	1,306

Public Libraries: Opening Hours

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries were open for more than 60 hours per week in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [211202]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: According to the "Public Library Statistics" published by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, in England there were seven library service points open for more than 60 hours per week in 1996-97 and there were 97 in 2006-07.

Regional Sports Boards

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role of regional sports boards will be under the Sport England strategy for 2008 to 2011. [211456]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Regional Sports Boards will be replaced by a ministerial nominee in each region who will act as an advocate for community sport and help lever in regional funding from the public and private sector. A decision on the London Regional Sports Board will be made following discussions with the Mayor. The changes across all nine regions will be implemented in full by the end of the year.

Sport England will retain a regional presence through its network of nine regional offices, but their work will be more tightly focused. A new structure will be announced by the end of June.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on policies affecting inbound tourism. [210747]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: Since the start of 2008, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have exchanged detailed correspondence about issues relevant to the Strategic Review of Tourism Support, which is presently being taken forward by VisitBritain. The aim of these discussions was to make the best possible use of the overseas assets of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the British Council, along with VisitBritain's overseas office network, in promoting inbound tourism. These discussions have contributed to the emerging findings of the Strategic Review, which is expected to report in July.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what method his Department uses to estimate the level of local authority expenditure on tourism; and if he will make a statement. [210410]

Margaret Hodge: Figures for local authority tourism spending in England are derived from returns made by individual authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Each year, local authorities in England report a breakdown of their revenue budgets for the forthcoming year in April and their revenue outturn for the previous year in July. All authorities are required to complete the forms and DCLG achieves a 100 per cent. response rate.

According to DCLG's guidance to local authorities (Guidance Note RO6 on completing the General Fund Revenue Account Outturn for Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services), the following activities should be reported as tourism spending:

Marketing and policy—the marketing, development and promotion of tourism in the area concerned; the promotion and advertisement of the area to potential visitors; contributions to Regional Tourist Boards; grants and loans given to support organisations offering attractions or other tourist-related facilities; the provision of tourist conference facilities; and tourist research:

Visitor information—tourist maps and guides, "what's on" leaflets, etc.;

Visitor centres—Tourist information Offices, Centres and Bureaux, and/or dedicated tourism staff for the provision of information to visitors.

An analysis of local authority tourism spending, along with other elements of public sector tourism funding, forms part of the present Tourism Framework Review, which is being led by VisitBritain. The review is expected to report in July.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on tourism in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [210495]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS spending on tourism is via grant in aid to VisitBritain which is broken down as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	47.9
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	48.9
2006-07	49.9
2007-08	49.9

In addition to this £3.6 million, in each of these years was provided to the eight Regional Development Agencies and £1.9 million for each of these years to the London Development Agency, for the support of tourism.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210547]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS has published a Welsh Language Scheme and uses a scoring system approved by the Welsh Language Board to ascertain which of its publications should be made in Welsh. The Department completed an assessment of the provision of services in Welsh in response to a request from the Welsh Language Board earlier this year.

World Creative Business Summit

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1016-7W, on the World Creative Business Summit, how much will be paid to *(a)* Edelman and *(b)* Acclaim for services related to this event. [210197]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS has appointed Edelman and Acclaim through the Central Office of Information (COI) to deliver the World Creative Business Summit. We are currently working with COI and the agencies on delivery plans for the event. Exact payments to each agency will be agreed when plans are signed off.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings his Department has held with the Red Cross on the arrest and detention in adult criminal prisons of Afghan child refugees in Greece; and if he will make a statement. [209741]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no meetings with the Red Cross specifically regarding the arrest and detention of Afghan child refugees in adult criminal prisons in Greece. Greece, like many other EU countries, is bound by the Council Directive laying down minimum standards for the Reception of Asylum Seekers 2003/9/EC, the implementation of which is monitored by the European Commission. We welcome recent steps taken by Greece to improve conditions for asylum seekers, for example to create new reception centres in Samos, Amygdaleza (Attica) and Sparta.

Bangladesh: Prisoners

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Bangladesh about the *(a)* number and *(b)* conditions of political prisoners in that country. [209872]

Dr. Howells: Following the recent arrests throughout the country, the Bangladesh authorities have not released specific information on the number of political prisoners. The UK has consistently called on Bangladesh to ensure respect for fundamental individual rights, due process and judicial independence, consistent with her international obligations. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary each emphasised this to Fakruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of the Bangladesh caretaker government, in meetings in London and Dhaka earlier this year.

Bermuda: Administration of Justice

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of 28 February 2000, what representations he has made to the Government of Bermuda on legislative proposals to amend section 17(2) of the Court of Appeal Act 1964 of Bermuda regarding the grounds for appeal to the Court of Appeal against a judgment of the Supreme Court; and if he will make a statement. [208772]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no representations to the Government of Bermuda on proposals to amend section 17(2) of the Bermuda Court of Appeal Act 1964.

We are aware of a motion put down in the Bermuda House of Assembly in March, noting the need to reform the law relating to double jeopardy where new evidence has emerged. We understand that the Government of Bermuda has not included any proposals to amend the Court of Appeal Act in its current legislative programme. Any change to the 1964 Act is a matter for the legislature of Bermuda.

Burma: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the responsibilities of the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Burma are; how many times he has visited the country; and what discussions he has had with the Burmese regime. [209370]

Meg Munn: Appointed in August 2007, the UK Special Representative on Middle East and Special Projects advises my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary on countries within this remit, including Burma. He undertakes specific missions and initiatives as designated by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and contributes to policy planning within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In his current role, the UK Special Representative on Middle East and Special Projects has visited Burma once on 25 May 2008 when he accompanied my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development to the International Donors Conference, following Cyclone Nargis. Since taking up the Special Representative role, the only discussions he has had with the Burmese regime took place during this visit and focussed solely on humanitarian relief. He discussed Burma with the Governments of Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand in November 2007 and April 2008 and with the Government of India in April 2008.

Burma: Entry Clearances

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria determine the inclusion of names on the visa ban list under the EU Common Position on Burma. [209358]

Meg Munn: The visa ban targets the military regime in Burma, those who benefit most from its misrule and those who actively frustrate the process of national reconciliation, respect for human rights and democracy.

The visa ban list, under Common Position 2006/318/CFSP, includes the names of members of the military regime, the military and security forces, significant individuals associated with the military regime who formulate, implement or benefit from policies that impede Burma's transition to democracy and their families and associates. Although certain measures imposed by this Common Position are directed at persons associated with the Burmese regime and members of their families, children under 18 are not, in principle, targeted.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has issued guidance to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use; and if he will make a statement. [208175]

Meg Munn: For reasons of technical security Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are instructed not to switch off personal computers when not in use.

The implementation of the FCO's new information technology system, Future Firecrest, started in March this year. The first phase involves replacing ageing equipment in the UK; the replacement of similar equipment at posts overseas will start later this year.

The old technology provided no effective reduced power settings. Future Firecrest is configured to make the best use of new energy saving capabilities so that personal computers enter a mode drawing minimal power—between 2 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the amount when fully powered—after a short period of user inactivity. This will be a significant contribution to the FCO's plans to reduce its energy consumption in line with the new Government targets on sustainable operations on the Government estate announced in June 2006.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* press or communication officers his Department has hired and *(b)* contracts for such services have been agreed in the last three months, broken down by Civil Service grade. [208782]

Meg Munn: The following response for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) includes information from FCO Services—a trading fund of the FCO.

In the last three months, two press or communication officers have been appointed. No further details can be provided, as to do so would allow these individuals to be identified.

It is possible that locally engaged press or communication officers have been hired within the last three months by the FCO's missions overseas, enabling us to engage better with people and Governments from other countries. However this information is not monitored centrally so it would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

No further contracts for press and communication services have been agreed in the last three months.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209435]

Meg Munn: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have access to vocational training through a central Learning and Development team in London and a network of regional centres overseas.

European Union: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in each of the last 10 years. [208781]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total cost of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in the last 10 years was as follows:

	£ million
1998-2002	[1]—
2002-03	11.9
2003-04	11.8
2004-05	15.4
2005-06	[2]16.3
2006-07	15.6
2007-08	[3]—

[1] Data on costs prior to 2001-02 are not held in a format that would enable us to answer the question without incurring disproportionate cost.

[2] Data for the cost of the UK Permanent Representation to the EU for 2005-06 are not separately identifiable without incurring disproportionate cost.

[3] Data are not yet available for the year 2007-08.

Note:

The figures tabled are management information figures which include all direct and indirect post expenditure including money spent by the centre on behalf of post including: Non-cash and cash items, administration costs, staff costs (UK based and locally employed) and programme costs.

Government Communication Headquarters: Photography

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons and on what authority photography at the Government Communications Headquarters has been prohibited. [210752]

David Miliband *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 makes it an offence for any person for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the state to approach, inspect or be in the neighbourhood of a 'prohibited place' or to make or otherwise obtain a sketch (a term which encompasses a photograph) which might be directly or indirectly useful to a potential enemy. All Government Communications Headquarters sites are prohibited places for the purposes of the Act.

Homophobia

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which countries his Department assesses *(a)* gay men and *(b)* lesbian women who are (i) citizens and (ii) visitors are at risk of persecution. [210276]

Meg Munn: There are nine countries that have a maximum penalty of death for consenting same sex relations. They are: Iran, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria (in 12 northern states where Sharia law operates), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Yemen.

There are ten countries that have a maximum of life imprisonment for consenting same sex relations. They are: Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Burma, Guyana, India, Maldives, Nepal, Singapore and Uganda.

Other countries criminalise consenting same sex relations but with lesser penalties.

There are a number of other countries where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people may be at risk of persecution. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Travel Advice points to countries where there might be a risk of persecution for visitors. The FCO also provides specific advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people on the range of issues that they might face abroad. This can be found at: www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

The Government oppose persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people wherever it occurs. FCO officials have been active in promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to make a financial contribution to support the introduction of the system for programme support and the international public sector accounting standards at the International Atomic Energy Agency, as referred to in the Director General's Introductory Statement to the Board of Governors in Vienna on 2 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [210483]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The UK supports the proposed Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support (AIPS), which is necessary for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Funding mechanisms are still being explored within the IAEA Board of Governors; possibilities include making efficiencies within the IAEA, retention of part of the 2007 cash surplus, or voluntary donations by member states. There is no plan for the UK to make a financial contribution while this debate is ongoing.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for the International Atomic Energy Agency's Nuclear Security Fund was in the last period for which figures are available; and how much the UK committed to the Fund for that period. [210485]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The income of the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) in 2007 was €17,758,000. In this period the UK contributed €3,041,000, making it the third largest state donor.

Malawi: Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the forthcoming vacancy for the post of high commissioner to Malawi has been publicised *(a)* within his Department and *(b)* elsewhere in the civil service and applications invited. [209806]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP has been nominated to be our next high commissioner in Lilongwe. His appointment will be made under the terms of schedule 2(2) of the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991, which expressly allows exceptions to the normal method of recruitment. Accordingly, the post has not been advertised within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or elsewhere within the civil service.

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy that the costs of *(a)* the Aftercare Plan and *(b)* the exceptional assistance measures should be recovered from the people helped; and if he will make a statement. [208774]

Meg Munn: As I stated in my written ministerial statement of 2 June, the Aftercare Plan and its successor, the Exceptional Assistance Measures for victims of terrorist incidents overseas, can fund certain expenses on behalf of British nationals and family members in exceptional circumstances following a terrorist incident overseas. Financial assistance under the Exceptional Assistance Measures is provided as a last resort where such assistance is not available from the government of the country where the incident took place, insurance providers or other agencies and organisations. The costs will not be recovered from those affected by the incident.

United Nations Commission on Violence against Women

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to support proposals for a United Nations Commission on Violence against Women. [208909]

Meg Munn: The Government are unaware of any proposals for a UN Commission on Violence Against Women. But we are committed to promoting the rights of women and girls and are active at the UN in supporting a number of initiatives that seek to address violence against women. This includes supporting resolutions that call for the intensification of all efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women as well as supporting the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. We also support the campaign launched by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, on 25 February to intensify action to end violence against women and girls.

More specifically the Government, through the Department for International Development, fund a programme implemented by the UN Development Fund for Women aimed at promoting women's engagement in peace-building and preventing sexual violence in conflict. Funding will go towards supporting women's community-level efforts to build peace and prevent sexual violence in Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor Leste and Uganda.

Voting Rights: Females

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to encourage the enfranchisement of women in countries that do not allow women to vote. [210240]

Meg Munn: Saudi Arabia currently prohibits women from voting but has indicated that it will end its legal prohibition on women's suffrage in 2009, when women will be allowed to vote in local elections for the first time (men were given the right in 2005). In addition there are countries across the world where neither women nor men vote because there is no electoral process or where women cannot fully exercise their right to vote because structural barriers prevent them from doing so.

The Government believe that elections play a key role in determining the democratic legitimacy of a Government. The increased participation of women and other under-represented groups will improve democracy as well as contributing to security and prosperity.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has supported several projects in recent years to increase the participation of women in politics in predominantly Islamic countries.

The FCO's new Strategic Programme Fund will also support projects to promote the rights of women and address the structural causes that prevent women's participation in public and political life.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assaults on Police

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were injured as a result of an assault and took leave of *(a)* up to one month, *(b)* two to six months, *(c)* seven months to a year and *(d)* more than a year in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by police force; and how many (i) had to retire because of their injuries and (ii) were assessed for post traumatic syndrome in that period. [208871]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many physical assaults without weapons were made against police officers in each police force in each of the last five years; [208872]

(2) how many assaults there were against police officers with *(a)* knives, *(b)* guns and *(c)* other objects in each police force in each of the last five years. [208873]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum cases included in the Legacy Cases Review are awaiting allocation to a case worker. [208576]

Mr. Byrne: In December 2007, we allocated over 330,000 principal applicant cases to around 60 case owners. At that date, 52,000 cases had been concluded and we believe that the caseload also includes around 60,000 to 70,000 dependants.

Some cases were not allocated at that time and so we are continuing to refine our processes for allocating cases.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has set the UK Border Agency a target for the review under the Legacy Cases Review of asylum claims first made in 2000; and if she will make a statement. [208577]

Mr. Byrne: The work to clear the backlog of unresolved asylum cases was announced in July 2006 with the aim to clear these cases in five years or less. We remain confident that we are on track to conclude these cases by the summer of 2011.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 611W, on Immigration: Housing, what schemes to help prevent homelessness have been included in the reimbursement package in respect of individuals and families dealt with under the legacy exercise; what the budget is for such schemes; how much has been paid to local authorities by way of reimbursement; and which local authorities have *(a)* submitted claims and *(b)* been reimbursed. [208770]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has worked with local authorities to develop local solutions to mitigate any potential impacts of the work to clear the backlog of older cases. The precise nature of any schemes adopted by authorities is a commercial matter between them and the providers with whom they deal.

There is no separate budget for any element of the support being offered to local authorities as a result of the legacy exercise. UKBA is expected to contain expenditure on such support within its overall budget for accommodating asylum-seekers.

No amounts have yet been paid to local authorities. The following authorities have registered claims at 3 June:

Barnsley
Blackburn
Bolton
Bradford
Bury
Calderdale
Cardiff
Derby
Glasgow
Hounslow Leeds
Leicester
Manchester
Newport (Gwent)
North Tyneside
Oldham
Rochdale
Rotherham
Sandwell
Sheffield.

The Home Affairs Select Committee is due to be updated with progress on work to clear the backlog of older cases later this month.

British Nationality: Assessments

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements have been made by the Government to evaluate the testing arrangements for new citizens through the Life in the UK test. [210021]

Mr. Byrne: We are currently considering the most appropriate way to assess the arrangements for migrants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of life in the UK and of the language with citizenship courses that new citizens with less developed language skills are encouraged to undertake. We attach great importance to these policies and want to take the time to ensure that they are properly evaluated.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was received from people taking the Life in the UK test in each year since its introduction. [210469]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* Candidates taking the Life in the UK test pay a fee of £34. This is calculated on a cost recovery basis and is not therefore designed to generate revenue for the Government.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applicants have failed the Life in the UK test at least once in each of the last three years; and how many times on average an applicant took the Life in the UK test before passing in each year. [210470]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* Applicants may take the test as many times as they wish. We do not routinely collect information on the number of times a person goes through the system and this information would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward plans to review the Life in the UK test. [210590]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* We are currently considering the most appropriate way to assess the arrangements for migrants to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of life in the UK and of the language with citizenship courses that new citizens with less developed language skills are encouraged to undertake. We attach great importance to these policies and want to take the time to ensure that they are properly evaluated.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. [209621]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office fully supports the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and recognises the successes it has achieved. We look forward to the continued success of the organisation.

Civil Defence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy her Department has established to deal with a chemical or biological attack on the UK; and if she will make a statement. [209348]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST), published in July 2006, includes planning for chemical and biological attacks. This is predominately taken forward through the 'Prepare' strand of CONTEST via the cross-government Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) Resilience Programme.

The CBRN Resilience Programme aims to ensure that the response to a CBRN incident is as quick and effective as possible in order to save lives and minimise any impact on property or the environment. As such, plans to deal with chemical or biological incidents include procedures which cover:

identifying the source of the threat;

giving advice to victims caught in the area and to others worried about contamination;

arranging urgent medical attention for casualties; and

decontaminating victims and the area itself.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the emergency services have the most appropriate equipment and training to respond to such an incident. Planning is underpinned by a CBRN Science and Technology Programme which is focused on developing the necessary capabilities and providing evidence to assist with policy and planning decisions.

Additional information on the CBRN Resilience Programme and recent developments in this area are available on the Home Office website at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/cbrn-resilience/

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the threat of a chemical or biological attack on the UK. [209349]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have a risk assessment process which identifies risks (including those from chemical or biological attacks) to the UK as a whole over a five year period. This process, managed by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, draws on relevant information and expertise from across Government. In the interests of national security, specific details are not made publicly available.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to stop the spread of gang violence. [209166]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* In September 2007, I set up the Tackling Gangs Action Programme to focus renewed action in neighbourhoods within Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester where guns and gangs have caused serious harm. It committed £1.5 million of funds to build on enforcement, community reassurance, risk management and Third Sector delivery. A practical guide to local authorities was published in May and a further £1 million will be allocated for enforcement, intelligence, safeguarding and prevention, and community reassurance.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205182]

Mr. Byrne: We are unable to answer this question on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on deporting citizens of other EU member states; in what circumstances are such citizens deported from the UK; and how many deportations have taken place in the last 12 months. [210397]

Mr. Byrne: We have made it perfectly clear that our objective is that foreign national prisoners should face deportation, when they meet the relevant criteria, and that deportation should happen as early as possible in their sentence. Any European Economic Area national who has committed a crime in the UK and received a recommendation for deportation at the time of sentencing or received a custodial sentence of 24 months or more will be considered for deportation action. The UK Border Agency will continue to take a robust approach in considering and, where international obligations allow, pursuing the deportation of EEA nationals.

The Agency deported or removed a record 4,200 foreign national prisoners in 2007. It continues to deport increasing numbers of EEA nationals who have committed crimes within the UK, having deported or removed over 500 last year.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people in England and Wales at risk of being subjected to female genital mutilation. [210933]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

"A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in England and Wales", funded by this Department, was published by Forward in October 2007. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Data about the numbers of girls and women admitted to hospital or killed as a result of this crime are not available centrally.

Note:

Type III FGM is described as excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (infibulation). Type II FGM is described as excision of the clitoris with partial or total removal of the labia minora.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to issue guidance to the police on dealing with cases of female genital mutilation. [211044]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004, the Home Office issued a circular to all chief officers of police in England and Wales providing guidance on the investigation of cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) under the provisions of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

In April 2008, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) revised and re-issued its practice guidance on investigating domestic abuse, which includes dealing with cases of FGM.

Over the last few months, the Home Office has also been working closely with ACPO to develop an honour-based action plan that will cover specific areas; adopting a co-ordinated community response to prevent and reduce honour-based violence, ensuring that all reports of honour-based violence are investigated, facilitating effective accountability of offenders through the criminal justice system and increasing awareness. We will be reporting progress on this work on a regular basis.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of women and girls taken abroad each year for the purposes of female genital mutilation. [211046]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of girls taken abroad each year for the purposes of female genital mutilation (FGM) are not routinely collected by this Department.

However, an estimate on the number of girls under 15 who are at risk of FGM in the UK was published in a research study conducted by the Foundation for Women's Health and Development (FORWARD) in October 2007. The study found that there are over 20,000 girls who are at risk or may have undergone FGM living in the UK.

Fireworks: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were for misuse of fireworks in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [210910]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences on the misuse of fireworks do not form part of this collection.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 extended the list of offences under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to allow the police to stop and search for prohibited fireworks. From information reported centrally on the number of resultant arrests we are not able to identify specific offences for which an arrest has been made.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1489W, on foreign workers: domestic service, if she will take steps to reconsider the proposal that migrant domestic workers must stay with the employer to whom the visa has been granted. [209868]

Mr. Byrne: Foreign workers engaged as domestic workers in private households can currently change employers.

Research and analysis in respect of these current provisions for domestic workers is under way and will shortly be published. In light of its findings we will consider separately, with interested parties, how best to achieve protection for any person, irrespective of how they entered the UK, who is found to be a victim of trafficking.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of international passengers who have been processed incorrectly through domestic arrival gates at Heathrow Terminal 5 in the most recent period for which figures are available. [209268]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency is aware of five occasions when some passengers from international flights entered the domestic arrivals area at Heathrow Terminal 5. These instances occurred in the Terminal's first month of operation and there have been no further incidents in the following weeks. Not all of the passengers on the flights involved were misdirected. The total number who entered the domestic arrivals process was 232.

All of these incidents were a result of human error on the part of the employees of either British Airways or the British Airports Authority. When notified of these events UKBA staff worked closely with the airport operator to secure the domestic arrivals area and to redirect the passengers to the appropriate area.

On two occasions this was completely successful, but on the other three occasions a number of individuals left the domestic area prior to the error being identified. On these occasions, further checks were made which satisfied UKBA staff that the individuals who had entered did not present a known risk to the UK.

After each incident a review was conducted with both the British Airports Authority and British Airways and these reviews identified a number of ways to prevent such events from re-occurring. Since these steps were implemented the UKBA has monitored their effectiveness, to ensure that further misdirections do not occur. In addition UKBA, the British Airports Authority and British Airways are continuing to carry out regular reviews.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many international flights landing at Heathrow Terminal 5 have included passengers subsequently incorrectly processed through domestic arrival gates. [209269]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency is aware of five flights where some passengers from international destinations entered the domestic arrivals area at Heathrow Terminal 5. The flights originated from Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Tripoli and Moscow. These instances occurred in the Terminal's first month of operation and there have been no further incidents in the following weeks.

All these incidents were a result of human error on the part of the employees of either British Airways or the British Airports Authority. When notified of these events UKBA staff worked closely with the airport operator to secure the domestic arrivals area and to redirect the passengers to the appropriate area.

On two occasions this was completely successful, but on the other three occasions a number of individuals left the domestic area prior to the error being identified. On these occasions, further checks were made which satisfied UKBA staff that the individuals who had entered did not present a known risk to the UK.

After each incident a review was conducted with both the British Airports Authority and British Airways and these reviews identified a number of ways to prevent such events from re-occurring. Since these steps were implemented the UKBA has monitored their effectiveness to ensure that further misdirections do not occur. In addition UKBA, the British Airports Authority and British Airways are continuing to carry out regular reviews.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she was first informed that passengers from international flights landing at Heathrow Terminal 5 had been incorrectly processed through domestic arrival gates. [209270]

Mr. Byrne: All instances of international passengers being misdirected to domestic arrivals took place in Heathrow Terminal 5's first month of operation and there have been no further incidents in the following weeks. All of these incidents were a result of human error on the part of the employees of either British Airways or the British Airports Authority. The UK Border Agency was notified of these errors immediately after they were discovered and were able to take the appropriate remedial action and carry out the necessary immigration checks on these passengers.

When notified of these events UKBA staff worked closely with the airport operator to secure the domestic arrivals area and to redirect the passengers to the appropriate area.

On two occasions this was completely successful, but on the other three occasions a number of individuals left the domestic area prior to the error being identified. On these occasions, further checks were made which satisfied UKBA staff that the individuals who had entered did not present a known risk to the UK.

After each incident a review was conducted with both the British Airports Authority and British Airways and these reviews identified a number of ways to prevent such events from re-occurring. Since these steps were implemented the UKBA has monitored their effectiveness to ensure that further misdirections do not occur. In addition UKBA, the British Airports Authority and British Airways are continuing to carry out regular reviews.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which biometrics will be used on the identity cards issued to foreign nationals from November 2008. [209973]

Mr. Byrne: The identity card for issue to foreign nationals from November 2008 will contain the holder's facial image and up to two fingerprints, all of which will be encrypted within a tamper-proof chip embedded in the card. The holder's facial image will be shown on the face of the card.

In total, we will record 11 biometric identifiers (a facial image and all 10 fingerprints) from each applicant, and store them centrally.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of illegal migrants in *(a)* Kettering, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [209307]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature, it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery by Christmas 2008, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Immigrants: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 342W, on Immigration: Housing, what criteria have been established for *(a)* items of expenditure incurred by local authorities and *(b)* an agreed cohort of supported families cases. [208771]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency has issued instructions to local authorities as to the nature of expenditure which can be reclaimed.

Immigration: Uniforms

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on Border and Immigration Agency: Uniforms, when she will write to the hon. Member for Ashford. [177559]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 28 May 2008.

Local Authorities: Asylum

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1798W, on local Authorities: Asylum, what funding her Department allocated from the Transitional Costs Fund in 2007-08, broken down by recipient local authority; how much has been allocated from the Fund for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [208657]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency is making available to local authorities limited sums from existing budgets in order to allow them to deal with additional transitory expenditure which they incur as a result of UKBA's programme to deal with outstanding claims for asylum. No payments have yet been made to local authorities. No funds have been allocated for 2009-10. The Home Affairs Select Committee is due to be updated later this month on the progress of the work to clear the backlog of older cases.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 1798W, on local authorities: asylum, how much her Department allocated to the Transitional Costs Fund in 2007-08; how much has been allocated for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [208658]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is making available to local authorities limited sums from existing budgets in order to allow them to deal with additional transitory expenditure which they incur as a result of UKBA's programme to deal with outstanding claims for asylum. No payments have yet been made to local authorities; UKBA has established a panel to adjudicate on claims but, until that panel has met, it is not possible to provide reliable estimates of the likely cost. The panel is scheduled to hold its first adjudication meeting on 11 June. No funds have been allocated for 2009-10 as UKBA will only meet transitional costs arising from this programme. The Home Affairs Select Committee is due to be updated later this month on the progress of the programme.

Members: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her letter in response to Question 179071 on Mukhtar Ibrahim, when she will write to the hon. Member for Ashford with reference to Questions 156981, 150411 and 150410 on Mr. Ibrahim tabled on 30 October 2007. [206860]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 11 June 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her letter in response to question 179071, on Mukhtar Ibrahim, when she will write to the hon. Member for Ashford; and when she expects to answer the parliamentary questions on Mukhtar Ibrahim tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford on 16 July 2007. [193173]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 11 June 2008.

Migration Advisory Committee

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff from her Department assist the Migration Advisory Committee; what their job titles and responsibilities are; and whether they assist the committee in a full-time capacity. [208992]

Mr. Byrne: The MAC has a dedicated secretariat of nine staff, eight of which are full time and one part time, some of whom are on secondment from Government Departments. The job titles and responsibilities are:

Head of Secretariat
Head of Policy
Head of Analysis
Assistant Economist
Senior Research Officer
Policy Leader (Stakeholder engagement)
Policy Leader (Visits and Finance)
Policy Developer (Correspondence and Office Manager).

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of the Migration Advisory Committee and its staff, broken down by *(a)* salary, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* consultant and external fees and *(d)* other costs. [209077]

Mr. Byrne: Funding for the Migration Advisory Committee for 2007-08 was £0.5 million. This sum reflected the fact that the committee and secretariat would not be fully functional until November 2007.

The funding included the cost of setting up the committee, the cost of operating the secretariat and the cost of committee members' series of regional visits across England Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These costs are estimated as follows:

	£
Pay and allowances (committee and secretariat)	350,000
Travel and subsistence	20,000
Training	5,000
Publications	6,000
Research	40,000
Recruitment	70,000
Others	9,000
Total	500,000

For 2008-09, the committee and secretariat have been awarded funding of £1.5 million, projected to break down as follows:

	£
Pay and allowances	670,000
Travel	70,000
Training	25,000
Publications	20,000
Research	700,000
Others	15,000
Total	1,500,000

Accommodation costs are met centrally.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Migration Advisory Committee has met since February 2008. [209080]

Mr. Byrne: In addition to other activities, since February 2008 the Migration Advisory Committee has met formally on:

15 February 2008;

28 March 2008 (held in Scotland); and

2 May 2008.

The Committee will meet next on 20 June 2008 and 21 July 2008.

Offensive Weapons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were arrested for an offence of possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article as a result of police usage of metal detection devices in the most recent period for which figures are available. [209301]

Mr. Coaker: Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on number of persons arrested is based on aggregated data reported by the 43 police forces in England and Wales. From these data we are not able to determine the circumstances of an arrest.

Offensive Weapons: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* firearms and *(b)* knives were seized by police in (i) Ribble Valley constituency and (ii) Lancashire in each of the last three years. [210907]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* Information on firearms seizures is not collated centrally. However, the development and implementation of the National Ballistics Intelligence Database (part of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service) should provide information in future about firearms seized by police.

In 2003, a national firearms amnesty resulted in the surrender of 44,000 firearms and more than 1 million rounds of ammunition. The national knife amnesty, held from 24 May to 30 June 2006, saw almost 90,000 items handed in to police.

Offensive Weapons: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce knife crime in the West Midlands. [209167]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* The Government are implementing a range of actions to tackle knife crime across England and Wales.

On 5 June, the Government announced that anyone over the age of 16 caught in possession of a knife should expect to be prosecuted on the first offence. Those under 16 who commit offences without aggravating factors can still expect to receive a warning coupled with referral to a knife education scheme to help them understand the dangers and consequences of carrying knives, and reduce the chances of reoffending.

The Home Office also announced a targeted programme on the Tackling Gangs Action Programme model, working with police forces and local authority partners to tackle knife crime. £2 million has been allocated to support police partnerships in specific areas, including the West Midlands, which will include:

Increased use of searches, in targeted and intelligence-led operations, to complement the 100 new portable knife arches and 350 search wands brought in over the last three months.

Fast-tracking the 'knife referral project' in which all young people convicted of a knife offence but not receiving a custodial sentence attend a course to bring home the consequences of knife crime

Home visits and letters to parents of those young people whom intelligence suggests are known to carry weapons.

We are ensuring that the police have access to detection equipment through the provision of an additional 100 search arches and 400 search 'wands' this year, and we will provide additional equipment beyond this according to need.

We are working with the Youth Justice Board to ensure that young people convicted of knife offences receive focused interventions to change their behaviour and prevent them from reoffending.

In addition to focused local action, we launched on 29 May a knife marketing campaign investing £3 million over three years aimed at reducing youth knife possession. Developed by young people, the message "It doesn't have to happen" is being conveyed through posters, radio ads, viral video sharing and social networking sites. The campaign also focuses on engaging with mothers to encourage them to talk to their children about the dangers of carrying knives.

Police: Public Appointments

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the adequacy of the advice given by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to police authority appointment panels for senior police posts. [209855]

Mr. McNulty: The role of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary in the appointment process is a consultative one and they will provide advice to the police authority on the candidates as well as assessing candidates. They are selected for their experience in policing, are independent and report to the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, who in turn reports to me and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary.

Police: South Yorkshire

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many uniformed and plain clothes police officers in all categories were in service in South Yorkshire at 1 January *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2008. [211009]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally in Police Personnel Statistics. Total police strength are available as at 31 March on an annual basis and are given in the following table:

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for South Yorkshire

31 March[2]	*South Yorkshire police force*
1979	2,546
1997	3,159
2007	3,254

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[2] Annual figures are collected by financial year and given as at the last day of the year, 31 March. Data for 2008 will be published on 22 July 2008.

Pornography: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the increase in the number of internet service providers using filters to prevent access to child sexual abuse images. [209618]

Mr. Coaker: The Government understand that 95 per cent. of consumer broadband connections are covered by blocking mechanisms that use the IWF list. Since 2004, blocking of these sites on consumer broadband in the UK has gone from nothing to 95 per cent. thanks to the work carried out by industry and the IWF.

The IWF processed more reports in 2007 than in 2006; however fewer reports were confirmed to contain child sexual abuse content which may be an indicator of the effectiveness of the voluntary blocking arrangements put in place by many UK service providers. The blocking initiative is designed to reduce the occasions when innocent internet users might accidentally be exposed to traumatic and unlawful images, diminish the re-victimisation of children by restricting opportunities to view their sexual abuse and disrupt the accessibility and supply of such content to those who may seek out such images.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further steps she plans to take to prevent producers of child sexual abuse images from hopping servers. [209620]

Mr. Coaker: The Government encourage people who are inadvertently exposed to child abuse images to report the URL to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Ninety-five per cent, of consumer broadband connections are now covered by blocking, based on the IWF's list of known child sexual abuse URLs. Since 2004, blocking of these sites on consumer broadband in the UK has gone from nothing to 95 per cent. thanks to the work carried out by industry and the IWF. The number of sites hosted in the UK, potentially containing child abuse images is less 0.4 per cent., down from 18 per cent. in 1997.

There are difficulties in removing sites which originate outside of the UK's jurisdiction. The IWF 2007 annual report shows the longevity of some child sexual abuse sites and how they avoid detection by moving servers. This is a challenge for law enforcement because these sites hop between jurisdictions to avoid being closed down.

This issue might be taken up by the new UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS).

Prostitution: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of teenage prostitutes in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England (i) in the last 12 months and (ii) in the last 10 years. [208556]

Mr. Coaker: Statutory guidance issued in 2000 on safeguarding children involved in prostitution stated that all Local Safeguarding Children Boards should make arrangements to actively enquire into the extent to which children are involved in prostitution within their local area. This information is not collated centrally. However, research commissioned by the Department of Health in 2002 found that children were known to suffer this form of abuse in 111 of the then 146 Area Child Protection Committee districts, with an average of 19 girls and three boys in each area.

Security Industry Authority

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how regularly the Security Industry Authority meets representatives of the industry to discuss the regulator's performance of its statutory duties. [210387]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* As part of its stakeholder engagement strategy, the SIA meets regularly with the private security industry. In addition, the SIA communicates to the industry through a variety of means which include meetings, conferences and the trade press. The chief executive of the SIA wrote directly to the industry on 3 March and 15 April 2008 to provide an update on performance, to report improvements that have been made to the licensing system, and outline what level of service can be expected from the SIA.

A copy of the SIA stakeholder engagement strategy can be found at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/stakeholder.htm

Security: Members

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will seek advice from *(a)* the police and *(b)* other security agencies on the implications for hon. Members' safety of publication of their home addresses in accessible form. [209162]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The Home Office maintains an ongoing dialogue with the police and the security agencies in relation to the safety and security of public figures, including any matters that could affect Members of Parliament as individuals or as a group.

Television

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes (i) in each of the last three years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [210241]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* In the last three years the Home Office has funded or part-funded the production of three television programmes outlined as follows:

> Beat: Life on the Street focused on the work and role of police community support officers. It aired in the autumn of 2006. The Home Office spent £400,000 for the production of this series in the 2006-07 financial year. The series was made by Two Four Television. There was no commissioning cost.
>
> A second series of Beat: Life on the Street was aired in January 2008. The Home Office spent £00,000 for the production of this series in the 2007-08 financial year. The series was made by Two Four Television. There was no commissioning cost.
>
> A series about the work of front line officers from the UK Border Agency is currently in the final production stages. The Home Office spent £400,000 from its budget for 2007-08. The series is made by Steadfast Television. There is no commissioning cost.

To date in this financial year 2008-09 there has been no further spend.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been detained pre-charge under counter-terrorism measures for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* four to six, *(c)* seven to nine, *(d)* 10 to 12, *(e)* 13 to 15, *(f)* 16 to 18, *(g)* 19 to 21, *(h)* 22 to 24 and *(i)* 25 to 28 days; and of those detained which were charged, and for what offence, in those cases in which no legal proceedings are ongoing. [203949]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 7 May 2008]:* Information on the number of individuals held in pre-charge detention under terrorism legislation is not broken down for the specific periods requested.

The following table, compiled from police records, provides statistics on the number of people held in pre-charge detention over 14 days and up to 28 days and the outcome.

Pre-charge detention

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released without charge*
14-15 days	1	1	—
18-19 days	1	1	—
19-20 days	3	3	—
27-28 days	6	3	3

The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006.

To date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention. Of these 11, eight people were charged as detailed as follows:

Six were charged following in Operation Overt, the disruption of an alleged plot to blow up an aircraft; one individual was charged following a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester police and one individual was charged following his arrest in relation to the London and Glasgow incidents.

The length of pre-charge detention and resultant charges is as follows:

14-15 days

> One individual charged with having information about an act of terrorism (section 38B, Terrorism Act 2000). This case was subsequently dismissed by a judge due to insufficient evidence.

18-19 days

> One individual charged with conspiracy to cause explosions (section 3 (1a), the Explosives Substances Act 1883).

19-20 days

> Three individuals charged with conspiracy to murder (section 1 (1), Criminal Law Act 1977) and Preparation of Terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006). The latter charge has subsequently been amended by the Crown Prosecution Service for two of the individuals to a charge of conspiracy to commit an act of violence likely to endanger the safety of an aircraft (section 1(1), Criminal Law Act 1977).

27-28 days

> One individual charged with preparation of terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006).
>
> One individual charged with preparation of terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006), possession of a prohibited weapon (section 5(1), Firearms Act 1968), possession of ammunition (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968), possession of a silencer without a firearms licence (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968). The charge of preparation of terrorist Acts for the second individual was subsequently amended by the Crown Prosecution Service to a charge of conspiracy to commit an act of violence likely to endanger the safety of an aircraft (section 1(1), Criminal Law Act 1977).
>
> One individual charged with attending a place for instruction or training in terrorism (section 8, Terrorism Act 2006) and collection of information (section 58 (1) (a), Terrorism Act 2000).

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained on suspicion of terrorist or related offences but were released by the police or security services because they were not able to compile enough evidence to charge them within the 28-day period allowed for detention without charge within the Metropolitan Police Authority in the last two years. [208717]

Mr. McNulty: To date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention, six individuals were held for the maximum 27-28 days, of which three individuals were charged, and three individuals were released without charge.

Nine out of the 11 individuals were arrested in August 2006, following Operation Overt the disruption of an alleged plot to target aircraft. This led to six individuals being charged, and three were released, one individual was charged on the 27-28 day of detention following his arrest in a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester Police in August 2006. One individual was charged on the 18-19 day of detention following his arrest in relation to the incidents in London and Glasgow in June-July 2007.

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released without charge*
14-15 days	1	1	—
18 -19 days	1	1	—
19-20 days	3	3	—
27-28 days	6	3	3

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for her proposals that detention of terrorist suspects for a maximum of 42 days before charge is necessary; and what discussions she has had with *(a)* police forces, *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(c)* the security services in determining the number of days. [209974]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* We set out our case for our proposal in a letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 6 December 2007. This can be found at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/general/pre-charge-detention/.

Given the scale and trend for increasingly large and complex cases we believe there may be a need to go beyond 28 days in future. The Government are determined to give the police the powers they need to tackle terrorism. That is why it is right and proper to legislate now to put in place the reserve power to extend pre-charge detention beyond 28 days if in future there is a grave exceptional terrorist threat. We have consulted widely on all of the proposals in the Counter-Terrorism Bill, including pre-charge detention, and this is an approach which has been widely welcomed. This has included discussions with the police, CPS and the intelligence and security agencies.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspects arrested under anti-terrorism legislation have been released without charge at the end of the maximum pre-charge detention period because there was not sufficient evidence to bring charges in each of the last five years. [210057]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* To date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention, six individuals were held for the maximum 27-28 days, of which three individuals were charged, and three individuals were released without charge.

Nine out of the 11 individuals were arrested in August 2006, following Operation Overt the disruption of an alleged plot to target aircraft. This led to six individuals being charged, and three were released, one individual was charged on the 27-28 day of detention following his arrest in a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester police in August 2006. One individual was charged on the 18-19 day of detention following his arrest in relation to the incidents in London and Glasgow in June and July 2007.

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released w/o charge*
14-15 days	1	1	—
18 -19 days	1	1	—
19-20 days	3	3	—
27-28 days	6	3	3

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the effect of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 on the ability of traditional folk dancers to *(a)* buy and *(b)* use swords as part of their dances; and if she will make a statement. [210185]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have received correspondence from traditional folklore dancers about the impact of the Government's ban on the sale, hire, import and manufacture of curved swords implemented in April 2008. The ban targets cheaply available curved swords used in violent crime but includes defences for legitimate uses including sporting activities, historical re-enactments and theatrical performances.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if she will make a statement. [210542]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office Welsh language scheme came into effect in January 2002 and is in the process of being revised. Although no recent assessment has been made of the level of demand for the service the Department does abide by the principles of the Welsh Language Act 1993 and seeks to ensure that it makes Welsh language versions of published materials available whenever appropriate.

Written Questions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to reply to the hon. Member for Ashford as referred to in the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 1284W, on Members' Written Questions; [169631]

(2) with reference to the answers of 30 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1284-85W, on Muktar Ibrahim, when she will write to the hon. Member for Ashford. [179071]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 29 November 2007 and 14 January 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 11 June 2008

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit: Repayments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the case of Veronika Ellis-Stockley of Churchdown, Gloucester and demands made on her by the Child Tax Credit Department for repayment of money. [211233]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs wrote to the hon. Member's constituent on 13 February 2008 and 29 April 2008. I have asked HMRC to investigate this case and will write to him shortly with a detailed explanation.

Consolidated Fund: Fines

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Consolidated Fund has received in the last financial year from fines paid *(a)* to public sector bodies and *(b)* by public sector bodies. [210845]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not held by the Consolidated Fund.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* grade were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in Southend-on-Sea in each year since 2001. [210511]

Jane Kennedy: The Treasury has no staff employed in Southend-on-Sea.

HMRC staff employed in Southend-on-Sea at 1 April 2001 to 1 April 2008

Grade	2001 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	8	9
Grade 6	2	13	15
Grade 7	11	37	48
Fast Stream	0	0	0
Senior Officer	62	177	239
Higher Officer	204	276	480
Officer	319	205	524
Assistant Officer	391	121	512
Admin Assistant	387	192	579
Total	1,377	1,029	2,406

Grade	2002 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	6	7
Grade 6	3	15	18
Grade 7	11	36	47
Fast Stream	0	0	0
Senior Officer	80	199	279
Higher Officer	241	274	515
Officer	335	213	548
Assistant Officer	423	135	558
Admin Assistant	350	197	547
Total	1,444	1,075	2,519

Grade	2003 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	6	7
Grade 6	3	15	18
Grade 7	13	40	53
Fast Stream	2	0	2
Senior Officer	94	201	295
Higher Officer	236	264	500
Officer	363	224	587
Assistant Officer	418	159	577
Admin Assistant	300	190	490
Total	1,430	1,099	2,529

Grade	2004 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	4	5
Grade 6	5	11	16
Grade 7	15	40	55
Fast Stream	0	1	1
Senior Officer	115	226	341
Higher Officer	237	265	502
Officer	346	197	543
Assistant Officer	418	166	584
Admin Assistant	289	167	456
Total	1,426	1,077	2,503

Grade	2005 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	3	4
Grade 6	6	11	17
Grade 7	15	32	47
Fast Stream	0	1	1
Senior Officer	125	222	347
Higher Officer	246	270	516
Officer	338	180	518
Assistant Officer	408	165	573
Admin Assistant	288	165	453
Total	1,427	1,049	2,476

Grade	2006 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	2	3
Grade 6	5	9	14
Grade 7	15	22	37
Fast Stream	0	6	6
Senior Officer	109	190	299
Higher Officer	237	245	482
Officer	313	169	482
Assistant Officer	369	155	524
Admin Assistant	247	133	380
Total	1,296	931	2,227

Grade	2007 Female	Male	Total
SCS	1	2	3
Grade 6	7	8	15
Grade 7	16	23	39
Fast Stream	1	5	6
Senior Officer	90	169	259
Higher Officer	220	233	453
Officer	322	171	493
Assistant Officer	343	128	471
Admin Assistant	213	111	324
Total	1,213	850	2,063

Grade	*2008* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	1	1	2
Grade 6	5	9	14
Grade 7	15	24	39
Fast Stream	1	5	6
Senior Officer	93	163	256
Higher Officer	205	220	425
Officer	300	160	460
Assistant Officer	321	123	444
Admin Assistant	205	108	313
Total	1,146	813	1,959

Insurance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to respond to the Competition Commission's report of 5 June 2008 on payment protection insurance. [211195]

Kitty Ussher: The Government are not planning to respond to the Competition Commission's report of 5 June 2008 on payment protection insurance as it is a provisional findings report. The statutory deadline for the full report is 6 February 2009.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he has not set aside an unallocated special reserve to meet the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the UK's other international obligations in 2008-09; and what allowance has been made for expenditure to meet those commitments. [210667]

Yvette Cooper: The cost of military operations in 2008-09, as in previous years, will be met from the Reserves. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced to Parliament in his 2008 Budget speech that expected spend on military operations this year will be over £2 billion. Costs and provision will be reviewed for the pre-Budget report and the Ministry of Defence will seek provision as usual for the full expected net costs of military operations in Winter Supplementary Estimates.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the longest time taken by his Department to answer a letter from an hon. Member was in each of the last three years. [211042]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target his Department sets for the maximum time to respond to letters from hon. Members; what proportion of responses met the target in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average time taken to respond to a letter from hon. Members in that period was. [211043]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not have a maximum time to respond to hon. Members but aims to reply to all correspondence within 15 working days of receipt. For the calendar year 2007, 84 per cent. of replies were sent to hon. Members within target at an average of 17 working days.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will publish his Department's report on the operation of the Barnett formula. [210403]

Yvette Cooper: No decision has been made yet on the date of publication.

Public Expenditure: Essex

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent from the public purse in Tendring district by *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* agencies, *(c)* local authorities, *(d)* public services and *(e)* other statutory bodies in each of the last five years. [210371]

Yvette Cooper: Revenue and capital expenditure (net of capital receipts) by Tendring district council for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 is set out in the following table.

	£000
2002-03	16,929
2003-04	18,306
2004-05	21,851
2005-06	23,148
2006-07	22,533

Source:
Communities and Local Government Capital Outturn (COR4) and Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

The lowest level at which other public expenditure information is available is the region. Total identifiable expenditure on services in the East of England can be found in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008 (HC 489). Please see the following link for an electronic copy of PESA 2008.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/7/pesa0809_chap09.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider the decision to close HM Revenue and Customs offices Portcullis House and Tyler's House in Southend-on-Sea; what recent representations he has received about the closures; what response he made to them; if he will place in the Library copies of the representations received; and if he will make a statement. [210611]

Jane Kennedy: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to increasing the efficiency of its operations in the interests of improved customer service and better value for taxpayers. It undertook extensive internal and external consultation, and detailed feasibility work, last year on its proposals for reducing its estate in the Southend urban centre to meet its future business needs in the area. The decision was taken last July that there was no requirement to retain either Portcullis House or Tyler's House, as all the staff who would be needed in Southend by 2010 could be accommodated in Alexander House, Southend.

The latest staffing projections for Southend, which take account of further developments in business plans, indicate that slightly fewer staff than in 2010 will be needed by 2011. There is therefore no reason to disturb the original decision that Portcullis House and Tyler's House will be surplus to HMRC's future business requirements.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices Portcullis House and Tyler's House in Southend-on Sea; and if he will make a statement. [210612]

Jane Kennedy: As the Minister with departmental responsibility for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), I hold regular discussions with HMRC officials about their estate rationalisation plans.

Revenue and Customs: Job Satisfaction

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of job satisfaction of HM Revenue and Customs staff employed in Southend-on-Sea in each year since 1997; what assessment he has made of trends in such levels; if he will place in the Library copies of such assessments; and if he will make a statement. [210512]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs conduct a staff survey twice yearly covering 20,000 to 30,000 staff. The most recent results are published on the Department's external website and are available for viewing. Information is not available on a location specific basis but results are analysed by business stream.

HMRC is committed to taking action to build on the positive responses in the survey and address the areas where improvement is needed.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* grade were employed at HM Revenue and Customs offices Portcullis House and Tyler's House in Southend-on-Sea in each year since 2001. [210506]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows:

HMRC staff in Portcullis House and Tyler House at 1 April 2001 to 1 April 2008

2001

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
Grade	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	1	4	5	0	0	0
Grade 6	0	3	3	1	3	4
Grade 7	3	9	12	4	5	9
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Officer	15	38	53	3	7	10
Higher Officer	36	54	90	14	14	28
Officer	42	25	67	30	13	43
Assistant Officer	26	10	36	47	25	72
Admin Assistant	5	2	7	36	8	44
Total	128	145	273	135	75	210

2002

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	1	2	3	0	0	0
Grade 6	1	2	3	1	3	4
Grade 7	2	5	7	5	6	11
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Officer	18	34	52	2	5	7
Higher Officer	44	49	93	15	14	29
Officer	42	19	61	39	23	62
Assistant Officer	20	14	34	58	21	79
Admin Assistant	3	0	3	40	17	57
Total	131	125	256	160	89	249

2003

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	1	2	3	0	0	0

2003

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Grade 6	1	2	3	1	3	4
Grade 7	3	7	10	4	5	9
Fast Stream	2	0	2	0	0	0
Senior Officer	22	34	56	4	5	9
Higher Officer	45	50	95	18	13	31
Officer	45	17	62	43	30	73
Assistant Officer	28	13	41	54	28	82
Admin Assistant	2	2	4	47	14	61
Total	149	127	276	171	98	269

2004

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
	Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	2	2	0	0	0
Grade 6	1	3	4	2	2	4
Grade 7	4	7	11	3	5	8
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Officer	23	36	59	4	5	9
Higher Officer	49	52	101	18	14	32
Officer	38	18	56	47	29	76
Assistant Officer	31	15	46	55	27	82
Admin Assistant	3	0	3	46	14	60
Total	149	133	282	175	96	271

2004

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
Grade	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	2	2	0	0	0
Grade 6	1	3	4	2	2	4
Grade 7	4	7	11	3	5	8
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Officer	23	36	59	4	5	9
Higher Officer	49	52	101	18	14	32
Officer	38	18	56	47	29	76
Assistant Officer	31	15	46	55	27	82
Admin Assistant	3	0	3	46	14	60
Total	149	133	282	175	96	271

2005

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
Grade	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	1	1	0	0	0
Grade 6	1	2	3	3	2	5
Grade 7	4	6	10	5	3	8
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Officer	26	46	72	3	5	8
Higher Officer	55	56	111	14	17	31
Officer	35	18	53	49	30	79
Assistant Officer	37	19	56	54	31	85
Admin Assistant	3	0	3	53	19	72
Total	161	148	309	181	107	288

2006

	Portcullis House			*Tyler House*		
Grade	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 6	0	3	3	3	2	5
Grade 7	5	6	11	5	1	6
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	5	5
Senior Officer	25	37	62	3	4	7

2006

Grade	*Portcullis House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Tyler House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Higher Officer	60	50	110	14	13	27
Officer	37	18	55	47	26	73
Assistant Officer	30	18	48	49	26	75
Admin Assistant	1	0	1	46	12	58
Total	158	132	290	167	89	256

2007

Grade	*Portcullis House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Tyler House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 6	1	2	3	3	1	4
Grade 7	4	5	9	4	2	6
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	5	5
Senior Officer	18	32	50	1	4	5
Higher Officer	57	49	106	14	12	26
Officer	41	16	57	44	24	68
Assistant Officer	27	16	43	45	25	70
Admin Assistant	3	0	3	40	9	49
Total	151	120	271	151	82	233

2008

Grade	*Portcullis House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Tyler House* *Female*	*Male*	*Total*
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 6	0	2	2	2	1	3
Grade 7	3	8	11	4	2	6
Fast Stream	0	0	0	0	5	5
Senior Officer	23	25	48	1	4	5
Higher Officer	52	47	99	14	11	25
Officer	41	15	56	39	22	61
Assistant Officer	25	17	42	43	24	67
Admin Assistant	4	0	4	40	8	48
Total	148	114	262	143	77	220

Revenue and Customs: Redundancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many redundancies of staff at each grade are expected to result from the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices Portcullis House and Tyler's House in Southend-on-Sea; and if he will make a statement. [210505]

Jane Kennedy: At present there are no plans to make any redundancies at these sites. HMRC is committed to avoiding redundancies wherever possible and to helping staff find alternative posts either within the Department or elsewhere. A number of measures have been introduced to facilitate this and there has been a programme of consultation with staff in order to keep them informed of progress in their business area.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea will be made *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [210613]

Jane Kennedy: At present there are no plans for redundancy at these sites. HMRC is committed to avoiding redundancies (voluntary or compulsory) wherever possible and to helping staff find alternative posts either within the Department or elsewhere.

Revenue and Customs: Resignations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of each grade have voluntarily ceased employment, other than through redundancy, in HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend-on-Sea since June 2007. [210504]

Jane Kennedy: The number of staff who voluntarily ceased employment from 1 June 2007 to 1 June 2008 is as follows:

Grade	*Total*
Administrative Assistant	15
Assistant Officer	20
Officer	12
Higher Officer	10
Senior Officer	6
Grand Total	63

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 971-72W, on Revenue and Customs: visits abroad, if he will place in the Library a copy of the full itinerary for the visit to *(a)* New Zealand and *(b)* Australia. [208740]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC and HMT staff working on tax credits visited Australia and New Zealand early in 2008. During the course of the visit, officials met with a range of Government organisations responsible for the policy and operational delivery of tax credits systems in those countries, as well as representatives from the voluntary sector.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many property sales in Scotland had stamp duty levied upon them at the one per cent. rate in the latest year for which figures are available. [210345]

Kitty Ussher: There were estimated to be 53,000 property sales in Scotland with stamp duty land tax levied at the 1 per cent. rate in 2006-07. An estimate for 2007-08 will be available from the end of September.

Taxation: Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 971W, on taxation: trade unions (1) whether the political levy element of the subscription fee to the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), for members who have not opted out of the political fund of the trade union, is eligible for tax relief under the Section 344 scheme; [210963]

(2) whether the entire trade union subscription for members of the National Union of Teachers is eligible for tax relief under the Section 344 scheme. [210964]

Jane Kennedy: Tax relief under section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 may be restricted if only a proportion of the activities of the body are directed to helping members maintain or enhance their ability to perform the duties of their employment. For example, if part of the income received as annual subscriptions from members is directed to a political fund then that will be a factor taken into account in determining what part of the annual subscription may be deducted.

Only two-thirds of the annual subscription fees paid for membership of the NASUWT and the NUT are eligible for tax relief to exclude the proportion of the fee relating to activities that are not directed to qualifying activities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of allotments. [211243]

Mr. Iain Wright: In liaison with the Department, the Local Government Association revised a good practice guide, "Growing in the Community", in March 2008. This includes a section on allotment provision. A free copy was sent to all local authorities.

The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area. Furthermore, "Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002" requires local authorities to make provision for all types of open space and requires them to undertake robust assessments of local needs and audits of existing open space, to establish standards for new provision. By implementing the guidance in PPG 17, local authorities should make adequate provision for allotments.

Council Housing

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local management agreements have been taken up since their introduction. [209913]

Mr. Iain Wright: Proposals for local management agreements (LMAs) were included in the Tenant Empowerment Consultation document published last June but as yet there has not been any formal introduction of LMAs by the Department. Some local authorities may already have such agreements in place, but this is not something collected by the Department.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the historic debt outstanding against council house construction was in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of the public sector borrowing requirement in each year since 1990; and what projections her Department has made for these figures in the future, including borrowing supported by arm's length management organisations. [203536]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital financing requirement (CFR) is a measure of HRA debt. It is a "stock" which is rolled forward each year to take account of new borrowing for HRA purposes. The HRA CFR from 1992-93 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table. We cannot differentiate the purpose for which the debt was taken out.

The HRA CFR increases by the value of new borrowing every year and decreases by the value of principal repaid every year. The decline in HRA debt, from 1994-95 to 2004-05, shows that local authorities have been repaying more debt than they have been taking out. We would expect to see this as until 2004-05 local authorities were compelled to set-aside money to repay debt and this was taken into consideration in the calculation of their HRA debt level, and hence a reduction in the percentages of housing revenue account capital financing charge as public sector net debt.

Public sector net debt (PSND) is the main measure of national debt used in the Government's fiscal policy framework. PSND records financial liabilities issued by the public sector less its holdings of liquid financial assets. Public sector includes central Government, local government and public corporations.

	PSND (£)	*HRA debt (£)*	*HRA debt/PSND (percentage)*
1992-93	202,600,000,000	20,039,091,106	9.89
1993-94	249,800,000,000	20,386,546,784	8.16
1994-95	290,000,000,000	20,818,339,121	7.18
1995-96	322,100,000,000	20,648,130,105	6.41
1996-97	348,000,000,000	20,212,328,553	5.81
1997-98	352,900,000,000	19,708,079,143	5.58
1998-99	351,600,000,000	19,029,932,961	5.41
1999-2000	345,400,000,000	18,487,181,937	5.35
2000-01	312,400,000,000	17,606,728,155	5.64
2001-02[2]	315,500,000,000	17,592,048,166	5.58
2002-03	347,100,000,000	16,425,428,521	4.73
2003-04	382,800,000,000	14,009,766,512	3.66
2004-05	423,600,000,000	12,889,346,585	3.04
2005-06	463,000,000,000	13,307,369,486	2.87
2006-07	499,500,000,000	14,519,552,650	2.91
2007-08	527,700,000,000	15,480,866,859	2.93

Notes:

1. No distinction is drawn between debt for new construction and debt for refurbishment. They are all included in the overall figures.

2. From 2001-02 onwards the Department did not collect data on local authority borrowing for spending on their council housing from those authorities with no notional housing debt (used in calculating HRA subsidy entitlement).

Projections of future borrowing are budget allocations for the spending review period 2008-11 and are in the following table:

		£
	LA SCE(R) for spend on LA stock	*Additional LA borrowing for ALMOs*
2008-09	272,418,000	809,000,000
2009-10	269,190,000	809,000,000
2010-11	258,755,000	759,000,000

Note:

1. The forecast figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 reflect the estimated level of supported capital expenditure (revenue) and additional LA borrowing for ALMOs to be supported by DCLG, rather than any actual level of borrowing that authorities may enter into. How much actual future debt each individual local authority holds will be a Treasury management decision for that authority.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208511]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2042W.

As a result of the low levels of activity, the Department for Communities and Local Government does not routinely record international mail costs separately from inland mail. Upon investigation we have identified a spend of £399.99 between May 2007 and May 2008 for international mail and this is administered by Corporate Mailing Services (CMS), a private company which is used by MITIE Document Solutions. CMS is the trading name of Royale Research Ltd.

Departmental Public Participation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many consultations her Department undertook in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in the non-preferred option being adopted. [210628]

Mr. Dhanda: Over the past five calendar years to December 2007, Communities and Local Government and my predecessor Department undertook respectively:

24 public consultations (ODPM 2003)

53 public consultations (ODPM 2004)

57 public consultations (ODPM 2005)

34 public consultations (Communities and Local Government 2006)

48 public consultations (Communities and Local Government 2007)

All of these consultations were launched in order to inform policy development, as a way of exposing preliminary policy analysis to public scrutiny. Consultation is one of a number of mechanisms by which Government seek to listen to as wide a range of opinion as possible before making a final decision. Information on the non-preferred options is not collected, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by her Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which she has policy responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [210463]

Mr. Dhanda: I will consider the case for a strategy on age discrimination and the promotion of age equality in the light of the Government's response to the consultation exercise "A Framework for Fairness".

Meanwhile I can assure the hon. Member that we are aware of the needs of older people and take them very seriously. Since 2000, our Warm Front programme has helped around 800,000 older households to improve heating and energy efficiency. The Supporting People programme, created in 2003, helps around 840,000 older people a year with housing support services. Working with other Departments and external partners we launched on 25 February this year Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society. This is a major new housing strategy giving older people greater choice and addressing the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population.

European Union Solidarity Fund

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when local authorities will receive the funds allocated from the EU Solidarity Fund to help with flood recovery; and if she will make a statement. [211430]

John Healey: The Government were able to set up a Restoration Fund of £30.6 million for English local authorities affected by last summer's floods to support their continued efforts to rebuild their communities, following our successful bid to the European Union Solidarity Fund. This money is on top of up to £88 million already made available to flood-hit areas to help them get back on their feet.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has consulted local authorities on how to allocate the Restoration Fund. Local authorities are currently being asked to supply data on the costs they have incurred.

It is my intention to make announcements on funding allocations before the parliamentary summer recess.

Fire Services: Death

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters died in the course of their duties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by fire authority. [211049]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Firefighter deaths while on duty, England 1998-99 to 2007-08

	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Fire and Rescue Service										
Avon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire and Luton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Durham and Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Essex	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford and Worcester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

Firefighter deaths while on duty, England 1998-99 to 2007-08

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyne and Wear	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire[2]	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total England	2	4	3	1	3	1	4	0	2	5

[1] 2006-07 figure excludes one retired firefighter who died while attending a fire.

[2] 2002-03 figure excludes one firefighter who died attending a fire, while off duty.

Source:

Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the downturn in the housing market on the number of planning applications for substantive new housing developments. [211379]

Mr. Iain Wright: No specific assessment has been made, but the Department does publish a quarterly National Statistics release on planning applications, decisions, enforcement activity, minerals and waste planning decisions at England, regional and local authority levels. The latest release published on 28 March 2008 can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/732759.pdf

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new residential dwelling starts were made in England in each quarter since the first quarter of 2007. [211386]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows residential dwelling starts in England since the first quarter of 2007.

Quarter	*Residential dwelling starts*
Q1 2007	43,655
Q2 2007	43,050
Q3 2007	42,229
Q4 2007	38,134
Q1 2008	33,024

Source:

P2Q returns from local authorities and National House Building Council

Housing: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary o[illegible]ate for Communities and Local Government whether the removal of permitted development rights for householders to pave over their front gardens will require secondary legislation or revised guidance. [211073]

Mr. Iain Wright: Current permitted development rights that allow householders to pave over their front gardens will be amended so as to require that the paving will not lead to the front garden area being impermeable. This will be achieved through an amendment to The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. We intend this change to come into force on 1 October this year and we will publish guidance to explain how householders can comply with this requirement.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were submitted for a change of use from a private garden to a residential property in each of the last five years; and how many of these applications were successful in each year. [210472]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she and the Minister for Housing have had with the existing homes alliance on refurbishment and retrofitting of existing housing stock. [210738]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers have not yet had direct discussions with the Existing Homes Alliance (EHA). We welcome discussions with stakeholders, such as the EHA, in tackling the vital issue of reducing the carbon footprint of the existing housing stock.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the progress on meeting targets for decent home standards by 2010. [211555]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our latest assessment of progress is set out in chapter 7 of the Department's annual report. Copies are available in the Library of the House. Overall based on what social landlords have told us in terms of delivery of decent homes stretching beyond 2010, the amount of money we expect to be spent and progress to date we expect that 95 per cent. of the stock will be decent by 2010.

Local Authorities: Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much local authorities spent on tourism in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [210494]

(2) how much local authorities spent on marketing and promoting tourism in each of the last five years. [210257]

John Healey: Information on how much local authorities in England have spent on tourism in each of the last five years is published in Annex C of Local Government Financial Statistics (LGFS) England. The 2002-03 information can be found in Table Cld LGFS No. 15: 2004, 2003-04 in Table Cle LGFS No. 16: 2005, 2004-05 and 2005-06 in Tables Cli and Clj respectively in LGFS No. 17: 2007 and 2006-07 in Table Cle LGFS No. 18:2008.

These publications have been deposited in the Library of the House and are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.hto

Information on marketing and promoting tourism is not collected separately.

Non-domestic Rates

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District received small business rate relief in each year since 2000. [211186]

John Healey: Leeds city council reported there were 6,226 businesses in their area in receipt of small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available. Corresponding information for the Leeds West constituency is not held centrally.

Railways

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [211387]

Mr. Dhanda: All departmental staff may travel in first class carriages on trains where there are no seats available in standard class carriages. However, staff are asked only to travel if it is necessary and when official business cannot be settled by any other methods such as telephone or video conferencing.

Regional Planning and Development: Manpower

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time at (i) local, (ii) regional and (iii) national level to work on the implementation of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration; whether she plans to change these numbers before completion of the review; and whether the staff concerned will continue to be employed after completion. [210614]

John Healey: A number of staff in the Department contribute to the implementation of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration, including those working on regional planning, business rate supplements, local authority performance and local economic development.

However, it is not possible, at reasonable cost, to disaggregate staff time spent specifically on the implementation of the review. Full details of my Department's expenditure in 2007-08 can be found in Annex B to its 2008 Annual Report: "Community, Opportunity, Prosperity" (Cm 3794). There has been no net increase in staffing as a result of the review and decisions on future staff needs will be taken in the context of wider business planning exercises.

Rented Housing

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has undertaken on the price of accommodation in the private rented sector since 2005. [210437]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department ran the Survey of English Housing as a continuous household survey from 1993-94 to 2007-08. Information collected by this survey from private renting households included a range of characteristics such as rent paid, size of accommodation, tenancy type, whether household in receipt of housing benefit, and location. The results have been used extensively by policy users, academics and researchers to help inform research projects about the private rented sector.

Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to provide more powers for police and local authorities in relation to private landlords whose tenants engage in persistent antisocial behaviour. [211340]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Act 2004 introduced a range of powers—both mandatory and discretionary—to enable local housing authorities to both require and incentivise private sector landlords to improve the management of their stock, including tackling antisocial behaviour by tenants.

In line with the commitment given to Parliament, we have commissioned a review of how these powers are working from the Buildings Research Establishment (BRE). The review will follow up on work carried out by BRE to map the position when the legislation was introduced.

The independent review of the private rented sector led by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes at the university of York is also considering issues around the management of private rented stock.

Rented Housing: Bristol

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost of private rented accommodation in the Bristol City Council area in each year since 2000 for which figures are available. [210435]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average cost of private rented accommodation is available, but only at a regional level. The Department's data source, the Survey of English Housing, does not have a large enough annual sample to generate reliable private rental estimates at local authority level.

The recent trend in average rents for the Government office region of the south-west and for the whole of England is as follows:

Average monthly rent[1] of "free market"[2] private tenancies, south west region and England, 1999-2000 to 2006-07

		£ per month
	South West	*England*
1999-2000 to 2000-01	364	421
2000-01 to 2001-02	396	460
2001-02 to 2002-03	413	502
2002-03 to 2003-04	419	518
2003-04 to 2004-05	446	517
2004-05 to 2005-06	469	534
2005-06 to 2006-07	495	556

[1] Before deduction of housing benefit where applicable

[2] Assured shorthold tenancies accessible to the public without special conditions

Note:

Sampling variability is too great to provide reliable regional estimates for individual years

Source:

Survey of English Housing

Repossession Orders

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been repossessed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210972]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions although information for the United Kingdom as a whole, rather than regions or local authority areas, is published by the Council of Mortgage lenders. These data are available on its website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753

Thames Gateway: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which *(a)* councils and *(b)* other organisations have bid for funds under the Thames Gateway Parklands programme; [210396]

(2) what proportion of funds to be distributed by Thames Gateway for its Parklands programme will be allocated to *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* Essex; [210399]

(3) what budgetary allocations have been made under the Thames Gateway Parklands programme; and what timetable has been set for the distribution of allocations. [210400]

Caroline Flint: The three sub-regional Thames Gateway Green Grid Partnerships have been invited to submit business plans by the 18 July to Communities and Local Government for projects which they would like to receive funding for from the Parklands budget of £35 million. The Department has not received any plans to date. Funding allocations will be made by the autumn.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Regional Spatial Strategies are required to set targets for Traveller pitches. [208101]

Mr. Dhanda: Local planning authorities are required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the same way that they assess the housing needs of other members of their local communities.

Local planning authorities do this through Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs). The GTAAs inform the preparation of policies in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

The RSS identifies the number of pitches required (but not the location); it is for local planning authorities to consider the location of the pitches required for their area, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring local planning authorities.

Waste Management: Energy

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects on public health of new energy from waste developments. [210360]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

In 2004, my Department published an independent study on the health impacts from waste management—"Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management: Municipal Solid Waste and Similar Wastes". The study was peer-reviewed by the Royal Society and concluded that the treatment, including the recovery of energy, from municipal solid waste,

> "has at most a minor effect on health particularly when compared with other health risks associated with ordinary day-to-day living".

In relation to incineration, it stated that,

> "risks to human health from incineration are small in comparison with other known risks".

This was supported in a more recent position statement by the Health Protection Agency on municipal waste incineration (November 2005),

> "the weight of evidence from studies so far indicates that present day practice for managing solid municipal waste has, at most, a minor effect on human health and the environment, particularly when compared to other everyday activities".

DEFENCE

Skill Force

8. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on initiatives in the city of Nottingham by Skill Force to use the talents of retired military personnel. [210796]

Derek Twigg: Skill Force, an MOD initiated project, was set up in 2000 and since April 2005 has been, as originally intended, a fully divested registered charity. They are involved in three schools in the city of Nottingham. They have a school team of five instructors, of which four are ex-service personnel. They are currently in Hadden Park School, William Sharpe School and Hayward School.

Skill Force are seeking to expand to cover five schools in the city from September of this year.

Iraq

9. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on economic development in Basra province. [210798]

Des Browne: As the Prime Minister explained to the House last October, economic reconstruction in Iraq—and in particular in Basra province—is a key element of our strategy. We are supporting Iraqi Government and private sector efforts to stimulate economic development in Basra, and I saw some encouraging signs of progress during my recent visit to the city. I will continue to have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this and other elements of our strategy in Iraq.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on the mentoring, monitoring and training of Iraqi security forces in southern Iraq. [210804]

Des Browne: UK forces in southern Iraq continue to make very good progress in mentoring and training the Iraqi Security Forces. Our main focus is on developing the 14th Division of the Iraqi Army until it is fully operational. We have embedded a significant number of our people with that division in order to help achieve this, and our forces continue to provide a range of other support as well. The performance of 14th Division during recent operations in and around Basra demonstrates the continuing success of our approach.

Common Security and Defence Policy

11. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the common security and defence policy as defined in the treaty of Lisbon on UK defence policy. [210800]

Des Browne: I welcome the Lisbon Treaty since it reflects UK objectives of ensuring the development of a flexible, robust and NATO friendly European Security and Defence Policy. This includes keeping the key principle of unanimity for ESDP decision making. The Lisbon Treaty clearly states that the provisions

> "do not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of the member states".

Helicopters

12. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters are operational across all three services; and how many are expected to be operational in 2020. [210801]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of operational helicopters available to the three services, known as the 'Forward Fleet', is 357. Of these, 117 are in the Royal Navy, 154 in the Army Air Corps, and 86 in the Royal Air Force.

It is not possible to predict with any certainty the number of helicopters in the Forward Fleet at 12 years distance. Forward Fleet numbers will fluctuate in response to changes in operational requirements, the equipment programme and depth maintenance schedules.

Afghanistan

13. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of progress made by troops in Afghanistan towards securing their objectives. [210802]

Des Browne: The International Security Assistance Force continues to make good progress in terms of defeating the threat posed by the Taliban, enhancing the authority of the Government of Afghanistan and improving the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces. However, military action alone cannot solve the many long-term problems facing Afghanistan and ISAF forces work closely with the Government of Afghanistan, civilian organisations and coalition partners to ensure that we continue to make progress in our reconstruction and development efforts.

18. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [210807]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan is stable, if fragile in places. The Afghan National Army and troops from the 40-nation International Security Assistance Force have achieved significant tactical success against the Taliban in 2007 and early 2008.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [210799]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan is stable, if fragile in places. The Afghan National Army and troops from the 40-nation International Security Assistance Force have achieved significant tactical success against the Taliban in 2007 and early 2008.

Royal British Legion

14. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met representatives of the Royal British Legion; and what matters were discussed. [210803]

Derek Twigg: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met the director general and the chairman of the Royal British Legion on 17 January to welcome Chris Simpkins on his appointment and discuss issues of mutual interest; these ranged from conditions of service for members of the armed forces to funding for the armed forces memorial. He also spoke to the Royal British Legion annual conference on 17 May.

Armed Forces: Service Provision

17. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on improving co-ordination with the devolved Administrations on the provision of services for armed forces personnel and their families. [210806]

Derek Twigg: We are already working closely at ministerial and official level to deliver individual initiatives. We will be publishing a major Command Paper on a cross-Government strategy for improving support to regular and serving members of the UK armed forces, their families, veterans and widow(er)s when it is ready. Many areas of this support are devolved responsibilities which can only be implemented by the devolved Administrations.

I am committed to ensuring the entire UK delivers the best possible level of support to our armed forces.

Headley Court

19. **Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department is providing to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court in 2008-09. [210808]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence funds the full operating costs of the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court and is constantly investing in new staff, facilities, patient welfare and treatment. For the financial year 2008-09, the operating costs of the unit are expected to be over £16 million.

This year we are also constructing a 58-bed accommodation block for non-ward patients and staff, at a cost of around £4 million. In addition, we shall be spending some £3.5 million on other infrastructure work at Headley Court, including initial work for the major site development programme for which around £24 million has been allocated over the next four years (to upgrade clinical facilities and living accommodation) that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 6 May.

For many years the Headley Court estate, which is owned by a charitable trust, has also benefited from additional funding of projects by that trust and other charities, and I am happy to place on record my thanks to them for their continuing support.

Commissioned Officers

20. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the arrangements for the promotion of commissioned officers in the Army. [210809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army keeps promotion arrangements for all types of commissioned officers under constant review, and amends them when appropriate. However, there are no immediate plans to conduct a wholesale review of current promotion rules.

Veterans: Health Services

22. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent improvements have been made to health services for veterans. [210811]

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in improving health services for service veterans. [210805]

Derek Twigg: All veterans will benefit from the decision last November to extend priority health treatment to all veterans in Great Britain whose condition is considered by their GP to be due to service. The Department is also working with the four UK Health Departments and Combat Stress in piloting a new expert mental health care service for veterans in six NHS trusts across the UK. Following two years' evaluation, best practice will be identified and rolled out across the UK.

Aircraft Carriers

23. **Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to sign the final contract for new aircraft carriers. [210812]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As we announced on 20 May, we stand ready to sign the manufacture contracts for the new aircraft carriers once the Joint Venture between

BAE Systems and VT Group completes. We welcome the announcement made by the companies last week that they have reached final agreement on the formation of this joint venture and that, subject to approval by VTs shareholders, they expect the new company to begin operations at the start of July 2008.

Ammunition: International Cooperation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Government have played in securing international agreement on the banning of cluster munitions. [210792]

Des Browne: In November 2006, HMG made the decision to take the lead, internationally, in addressing the humanitarian concerns posed by certain types of cluster munitions.

Since this date the UK has been actively engaged with the convention on conventional weapons (CCW) and in February 2007 decided also to join the 'Oslo' process to drive this issue forward and secure the best possible humanitarian effect.

In March 2007 the UK took the initiative and withdrew from service two types of cluster munition believed to inflict 'unacceptable harm'—the first country to do so after the Oslo conference.

Consistently HMG's position on this issue has been made clear and was conveyed in the Prime Minister's speech in the Mansion House in November 2007 and his statement during the 'Oslo' process conference in Dublin on 28 May 2008.

As one of 46 nations to support the 'Oslo' process from the outset, HMG is delighted with the outcome of the Dublin Conference. A joint FCO, MOD and DfID team has worked very hard to secure a strong convention that addressed the key humanitarian concerns.

In advance of the convention entering into force the UK has once again led by example by ceasing use of cluster munitions with immediate effect and starting the programme to have them removed from service.

While this has resulted in some additional capability risk, this has been assessed as manageable and acceptable against the benefit in delivering both a strong humanitarian effect and legitimacy within the convention.

Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Government plan to publish the Command Paper on service personnel. [209729]

Derek Twigg: We will publish a Command Paper outlining a cross-Government strategy for the provision of support to members of the armed forces, their families, veterans and widow(er)s when it is ready.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* total expenditure and *(b)* expenditure per person was for telephone allowances as part of the deployment welfare package in the (i) first six and (ii) last six months of 2007-08. [210649]

Derek Twigg: The total expenditure on telephone allowances as part of the Deployment Welfare Package for the first six months of financial year 2007-08 was £9,232,564, and for the last six months was £10,358,096. The expenditure per person for the first six months was £504.34, and for the last six months was £579.76.

Armed Forces: Council Tax Benefits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are deployed on operations and qualify for council tax rebate, broken down by council tax band. [210650]

Derek Twigg: It is estimated that some 13,000 service personnel will currently be eligible for MOD's council tax relief payment. This is paid as a flat rate and therefore does not vary by council tax band.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel were deployed on operations in each location at the most recent date for which information is available. [210675]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 2 June 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Location	*Number*
Total	16,070
Of which:	
Afghanistan[1]	8,000
Iraq[1]	4,300
Kuwait[2]	1,060
At Sea	910
Kosovo	680
Qatar	420
Cyprus	270
Oman	240
Bahrain	80
Bosnia	10
Other	20

[1] Figures for Iraq and Afghanistan have been rounded to the nearest 100 for operational security reasons. Other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding methods used, the total may not equal the sum of the individual locations.

[2] Figures for Kuwait are artificially high due to a current Operation Telic Relief In Place (RIP) operation.

Note:

1. Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

Armed Forces: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W, on armed forces: peacekeeping operations, whether the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is involved with the analysis of member states' *(a)* training capacities and *(b)* training needs, to assess the potential added value of multi-national initiatives; and what co-ordination NATO will have in conjunction with the European Defence Agency on this issue. [210911]

Des Browne: NATO is fully involved in this work. The initial survey and analysis of Allies' helicopter capabilities was conducted by NATO, including at an expert workshop at NATO HQ. The survey and workshop identified insufficient and inadequate training as a main factor limiting the number of deployable helicopters. NATO and the European Defence Agency are co-ordinating their efforts to remedy these shortfalls through the EU NATO Capability Group.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* target and *(b)* actual recruitment to the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy, and (iii) Royal Air Force was in each year since 1997. [210696]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the recruitment targets form 2000-01 to 2007-08 and the actual recruitment from 1997-98 to 2007-08 to the UK regular[1] forces by service.

		1997-98[4]	*1998-99*[4]	*1999-2000*[4]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
All services	Intake[2]	23,510	26,000	25,550	23,020	23,720	26,350	23,540	17,590	18,150	[5]19,790	[5]21,310
	Target[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,490	23,340	25,340	23,270	18,270	18,840	19,870	21,900
Navy	Intake[2]	4,600	4,770	4,950	4,620	5,010	5,220	4,120	3,690	3,940	[5]3,770	[5]3,860
	Target[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,840	5,040	5,060	4,160	3,750	3,930	4,030	4,260
Army	Intake[2]	15,380	16,990	16,500	14,770	14,930	16,690	15,260	11,720	12,730	[5]14,300	[5]14,520
	Target[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	16,670	14,160	15,270	14,490	12,250	13,400	13,950	14,550
RAF	Intake[2]	3,530	4,250	4,100	3,630	3,780	4,450	4,160	2,180	1,480	1,720	[5]2,930
	Target[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,980	4,140	5,000	4,610	2,210	1,500	1,890	3,080

n/a = not available

[1] UK regular forces includes nursing services and excludes full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

[2] Actual recruitment (intake from civilian life) figures are taken from table 3 in TSP1, the latest edition is available at www.dasa.mod.uk.

[3] Recruitment target figures have been provided by the single services.

[4] Recruitment targets are not available pre financial year 2000-01.

[5] Denotes provisional and subject to review due to ongoing data validation of the joint personnel administration system (JPA).

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 379W, on the armed forces: USA, on how many occasions since 1997 visiting US personnel have been *(a)* prosecuted under UK law and *(b)* dealt with under US law for offences committed in the UK; and what information his Department holds on the results of such cases dealt with by the US military authorities. [211098]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 67W.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have lost their lives in road traffic accidents involving a Land Rover TUM/TUL HS Wolf since it entered service in April 1997; and how many of these accidents have been attributed to excess speed. [210380]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: As at 31 May 2008, 17 UK regular armed forces service personnel have died in road traffic accidents in Land Rover TUM/TUL HS Wolf since it entered service in April 1997.

Information is not held centrally on the causes of these incidents and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Working Hours

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unsociable hours as defined by the Defence Analytical Services Agency *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Army and *(d)* Royal Air Force personnel undertook in each of the last five years. [210651]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carry out a continuous sample survey of working patterns of service personnel.

The 2006-07 Survey of Continuous Working Patterns report provides estimates of the average number of unsociable hours worked per week. A five year time series by service is provided on page 10 of this report a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

The 2007-08 report is currently being compiled and is expected to be ready towards the end of 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Army and *(d)* Royal Air Force personnel worked excessive hours as defined by the Defence Analytical Services Agency in each of the last five years. [210652]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carry out a continuous sample survey of working patterns of service personnel.

The 2006-07 Survey of Continuous Working Patterns report provides estimates of the proportion of personnel working excessive hours per week. A five year time series by service is provided on page 11 of this report a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

The 2007-08 report is currently being compiled and is expected to be ready towards the end of 2008.

Burma: HMS Westminster

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role HMS Westminster is playing in the international relief effort for Burma. [207810]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: At the request of DFID, on 15 May the MOD deployed the closest available vessel to international waters near Burma as a contingency to assist with the humanitarian response if needed. HMS Westminster's capabilities include fresh water production (up to 50 metric tonnes per day), two sea boats for the transport of personnel and equipment, communications liabilities and a Merlin helicopter which could be used for reconnaissance or to transport personnel and equipment. In addition, the ship's company of around 150 personnel are trained in disaster relief.

To minimise the disruption to the ship's planned tasks, on Sunday 25 May HMS Westminster was relieved by HMS Edinburgh, which has a similar capability for delivery of humanitarian assistance.

You will be aware that the Burmese authorities formally declined the offer of assistance from naval vessels so none of these capabilities have been utilised. Following discussions with the French and US, and in the light of the UN/ASEAN Cyclone Nargis International Pledging Conference on 25 May, the decision was taken on 28 May to withdraw HMS Edinburgh to allow her to return to other tasking. The MOD, DFID and FCO continue to keep under review how the UK may best contribute to relief efforts as the consequences of Cyclone Nargis become evident.

DFID has so far committed £17 million for emergency cyclone relief, in addition to its normal funding programmes in Burma. The International Development Secretary attended the 25 May donor conference in Rangoon and gave strong support to the UN Secretary-General's efforts to press the regime to give full co-operation to the international aid effort.

Caribbean: Drugs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of rotary wing support for British forces operating in the Caribbean on counter-narcotics operations. [210743]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not deploy military assets dedicated specifically to counter-narcotic activities. Military forces are, however, made available upon request, when operational commitments and resources allow, to support the counter-drugs activities of the law enforcement agencies; in this case, the Joint Inter Agency Task Force. Sufficient helicopters are available to fulfil that tasking.

Caribbean: Navy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are serving in the Caribbean on counter-narcotics operations. [210676]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has deployed one Frigate and one Royal Fleet Auxiliary Tanker to the Caribbean for the 2008 Hurricane season from June 2008 to November 2008. Outside of the core hurricane season, the RN deploys one Royal Fleet Auxiliary 'Bay' Class Landing Ship Dock. In both instances, the primary roles of the ships are to provide reassurance to the Overseas Territories as well as Humanitarian and Disaster relief training to local organisations, and Humanitarian and Disaster relief as co-ordinated with FCO and DFID. Concurrently, RN units contribute to the counter-narcotics and all periods at sea are devoted to Maritime Security in the round.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type served in the Caribbean on counter-narcotics operations in each month since June 2006. [210677]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not deploy military assets dedicated specifically to counter-narcotic activities. Military forces are, however, made available upon request, when operational commitments and resources allow, to support the counter drugs activities of the law enforcement agencies, in this case, the Joint Inter Agency Task Force.

The following table shows British helicopters deployed with Atlantic Patrol Task (North) which covers the Caribbean. It should be noted that the primary purpose of this task is the promotion of British interests in the region and the security of the overseas territories rather than counter-narcotics operations.

	Aircraft type	*Number*
June 2006 to January 2007	Lynx	2
February 2007	Lynx	1
March 2007 to June 2007	SeaKing Mk 7 ASAC	3
	Merlin	2
	Lynx	1
July 2007 to November 2007	Lynx	2
December 2007 to June 2008	Lynx	1

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times United States Coast Guard helicopters have supported Royal Navy-led counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean since June 2006. [210678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Navy units do not lead counter narcotic operations in the Caribbean. Counter narcotic operations are conducted under the auspices of Joint Interagency Task Force (South) who do not log this information.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms of co-operation there are between UK forces and the United States Coast Guard in conducting counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean. [210679]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: RN units predominately from the RN Atlantic Patrol Task (North) co-operate with US Coast Guard under a Memorandum of Understanding between the RN and the Joint Interagency Task Force (South) based at Key West, Florida.

Defence Estates: Eco-Towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which of the sites proposed for an eco-town and not included on the shortlist his Department has *(a)* sold or *(b)* otherwise disposed of land under arrangements whereby his Department would benefit from a future sale of the land in the last 10 years. [210093]

Derek Twigg: It is possible that the Ministry of Defence would benefit from the future sale of land at Alconbury airfield, Sculthorpe airfield, Waterbeach, Derwent Forest and Throckmorton airfield.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff were attached to the (i) European Union Military Staff, (ii) European Defence Agency, (iii) European Union Military Committee and (iv) other EU institutions in each month since September 2007. [210643]

Des Browne: In each month since September 2007, the following numbers of military personnel were seconded to the EU Military Staff in Brussels:

	Number
September 2007	16
October 2007	17
November 2007	17
December 2007	17
January 2008	17
February 2008	17
March 2008	17
April 2008	18
May 2008	18

No MOD civilian staff have been seconded to the EU Military Staff in any month since September 2007.

In each month since September 2007, the following numbers of military personnel and MOD civilian staff were seconded to the European Defence Agency in Brussels:

	Military	*Civilian*
September 2007	1	4
October 2007	1	3
November 2007	1	3
December 2007	1	3
January 2008	2	3
February 2008	2	3
March 2008	2	3
April 2008	2	4
May 2008	2	4

The European Military Committee is a regular meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff or their representatives from the EU member states, not a standing EU structure. There has been one British military officer seconded as the Military Adviser to the permanent Chairman of the EU Military Committee in every month since September 2007.

There have been no military personnel seconded to other EU institutions in any month since September 2007.

In every month since September 2007 there has been one MOD civilian seconded to the European Council General Secretariat, one MOD civilian seconded to the European Commission and one MOD civilian seconded to the European Global Navigation Satellite System Supervisory Authority (GSA).

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the UK's participation in a standing EU armed force. [210948]

Des Browne: There is no standing EU armed force and there are no plans for one.

Gibraltar Service Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Gibraltar Service Police Staff Association was not party to the discussions prior to the agreement between his Department and the Transport and General Workers Association on 31 May 2007 on the future of the Gibraltar dockyard; and if he will make a statement. [211203]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association was not party to the discussions as their members were not affected by that agreement, which noted that the Gibraltar Services Police were to be subject to a separate forthcoming review.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what direct consultations his Department has had with the Gibraltar Service Police Staff Association about the future of *(a)* the Gibraltar dockyard and *(b)* the Gibraltar Service Police; and if he will make a statement. [211204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no consultations with the Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association (GSPSA) on the future of the Gibraltar dockyard. HQ British Forces Gibraltar issued for consultation the terms of reference document for the Gibraltar Policing and Security Review to the GSPSA and other interested parties on 4 June 2007. They responded on 19 June 2007 and conduct of the review commenced on 20 June 2007. The GSPSA has been kept informed on the progress of the review. Should the review determine an option that changes the current status or structure of the Gibraltar Services Police, then the normal process of consultation will take place in line with standard departmental procedures.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provisions in the agreement between his Department and the Transport and General Workers Union on 31 May 2007 *(a)* relate to the Gibraltar Service Police (GSP), *(b)* have a direct effect on the GSP and *(c)* have a direct effect on individual GSP officers; and if he will make a statement. [211205]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no provisions in the agreement that relate to the Gibraltar Services Police (GSP), or have a direct effect on the GSP or individual GSP officers.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the evidential basis is for the estimated cost saving which his Department has indicated will result from the transfer of the Gibraltar Service Police (GSP) to the Royal Gibraltar Police; for what reason the documents relevant to the proposed transfer were not made available to the Gibraltar Service Police Staff Association; and if he will place the documents in the Library. [211206]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not yet reached any decision on the future of the GSP. In particular, no decision has been taken to transfer GSP functions to the Royal Gibraltar Police. Decisions on the future of the GSP will only be taken after the completion of an investment appraisal. I will write to the hon. Member once a final decision has been taken.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultations his Department held on the proposed transfer of the Gibraltar Service Police (GSP) to the Royal Gibraltar Police with the GSP Chief Police Officer through *(a)* the Headquarters of the British Forces GIB security review and *(b)* any other means; and if he will make a statement. [211207]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not yet reached any decision on the future of the GSP. Accordingly, there have been no consultations with the GSP Chief Police Officer on the transfer of the GSP to the Royal Gibraltar Police. Over the past year both incumbents of the GSP Chief Officer post have been actively engaged in the security review.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions the Government have had with the Iraqi Government on the legal status of British forces in Iraq. [209853]

Des Browne: The Multi-National Force, including British forces, operates in Iraq under the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790, and at the request of the Government of Iraq. We are in discussion with Coalition partners and the Government of Iraq over our legal requirements following the anticipated expiry of the UN Security Council mandate at the end of 2008, with a view to ensuring that any future UK military assistance to Iraq remains on a sound legal footing.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the deployment of the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles to Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [211031]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* 2nd Battalion, the Rifles, has successfully deployed to Kosovo and formally began its mission on 31 May 2008.

Middle East: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to appoint a Middle East adviser; and if he will make a statement. [211452]

Des Browne: I have no plans to appoint a middle east adviser.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Defence Industrial Strategy in procuring helicopters to meet the needs of the armed forces. [209597]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have made significant progress in the helicopter sector since the publication of the Defence Industrial Strategy. The Strategic Partnering Arrangement with AgustaWestland has helped improve responsiveness and predictability through, for example, improved spares availability and adoption of a joint modification service.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual helicopter crew numbers are of each helicopter type in the (i) Army Air Corps, (ii) Fleet Air Arm and (iii) Royal Air Force. [210655]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of aircrew are shown in the following table.

	Required strength	*Actual strength*
Army Air Corps		
Apache AH Mk 1	134	93
Lynx Mk 7/9	208	192
Gazelle Mk1	98	104
AgustaA109	5	6
Bell 212	24	23
School of Army Aviation[1]	46	43

	Required strength	Actual strength
Royal Navy		
Sea King Mk 4/6c	131	117
Lynx Mk 3/8	100	96
Merlin Mk 1	169	139
Sea King Mk 5	62	45
Sea King Mk 7	45	43
Royal Air Force		
Chinook Mk 2/2a	249	229
Puma Mk 1	131	136
Merlin Mk 3/3a	140	127
SAR Sea King Mk3/3a	132	126
Defence Helicopter Flying School		
Squirrel	30	29
Griffin	54	52

[1] SAAVN figures cannot be split by aircraft type (AH/Squirrel/Lynx/Gazelle).

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a service helicopter was flying at grid reference GR 214 384, over land at Fiddington, adjacent to Clayton Lane, near Tewkesbury, on 4 December 2007, between 4.15 pm. and 4.45 pm. [211236]

Derek Twigg: One Army Gazelle helicopter was operating in and out of the Ashchurch vehicle depot, and passed near to the stated location at 16.32 on the day in question.

Military Attaches

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence attachés his Department had in post in each city *(a)* city and *(b)* country outside the UK in each month since September 2007. [210644]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows resident Attachés/Advisers by country and city over the period in question.

		Number of Attachés/Advisers at Post on 1st Day of Month									
		2007				*2008*					
Country	*City*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Afghanistan	Kabul	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Albania	Tirana	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Closed	
Algeria	Algiers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Argentina	Buenos Aires	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Australia	Canberra	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Austria	Vienna[1]	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
Bahrain	Manama	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladesh	Dhaka	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Barbados	Bridgetown	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Sarajevo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brazil	Brasilia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bulgaria	Sofia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada	Ottawa	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chile	Santiago	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
China	Beijing	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Colombia	Bogota	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Kinshasa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Croatia	Zagreb	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		Closed	
Cyprus	Nicosia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	Prague	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Denmark	Copenhagen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Egypt	Cairo	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Finland	Helsinki	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
France	Paris	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Georgia	Tbilisi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Germany	Berlin	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ghana	Accra	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greece	Athens	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Guatemala	Guatemala City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Closed	
India	New Delhi[2]	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Indonesia	Jakarta	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iraq	Baghdad	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Country	City	Number of Attachés/Advisers at Post on 1st Day of Month									
		2007				2008					
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Ireland	Dublin	1	1	Closed							
Israel	Tel Aviv	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Italy	Rome	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Jamaica	Kingston	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	Tokyo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jordan	Amman	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kazakhstan	Astana	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kenya	Nairobi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Republic of Korea	Seoul	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Kuwait	Kuwait City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lebanon	Beirut	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lithuania	Vilnius	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Macedonia	Skopje	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Closed	
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Morocco	Rabat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nepal	Kathmandu	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	The Hague	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
New Zealand	Wellington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nigeria	Abuja	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Norway	Oslo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oman	Muscat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pakistan	Islamabad[3]	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Poland	Warsaw	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Portugal	Lisbon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Qatar	Doha	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Romania	Bucharest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Russia	Moscow	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Serbia	Belgrade	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	Freetown	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Singapore	Singapore City	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Slovakia	Bratislava	1	1	Closed							
South Africa	Pretoria	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Spain	Madrid	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	Colombo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sudan	Khartoum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sweden	Stockholm	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Syria	Damascus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thailand	Bangkok	1	1	1	1	1	1	Closed			
Turkey	Ankara	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Uganda	Kampala	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ukraine	Kyiv	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
United States of America	Washington	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	UK Mission to UN New York	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Yemen	Sana'a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	Harare	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

[1] Vienna has been established as a regional hub with three Attachés based there covering Austria and another six countries on a non-residential basis: Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

[2] 2 Senior Advisers (the Defence and Military Adviser and the Naval and Air Adviser) are supported by an Assistant Defence Adviser.

[3] 2 Senior Advisers (the Defence and Military Adviser and the Naval and Air Adviser) are supported by an Assistant Defence Adviser. An additional Adviser is now at post in the role of Assistant Military Adviser.

Over this period changes to the Defence Attaché network have been implemented as stated in the written ministerial statement issued by the Secretary of State for Defence on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 125WS. These changes are:

Defence Sections have been closed in Albania, Croatia, Guatemala, Ireland, Macedonia, Slovakia and Thailand.

Attaché numbers have been reduced by one in Argentina, Egypt, France, Greece, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine.

A Defence Section has been opened in Kabul, Afghanistan and an additional Adviser has been deployed in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Vienna has been established as a regional hub with three Attachés based there covering Austria and another six countries on a non-residential basis: Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's security objectives of reducing the size of the defence attaché network. [210645]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The ability of the MOD to fulfil its security objectives is not jeopardised by the reductions being made to the defence attaché network.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether defence attachés from other EU member states assist his Department in countries where the UK has *(a)* a reduced and *(b)* no defence attaché section. [210646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no arrangements in place for defence attachés from other EU member states to assist the UK Ministry of Defence in countries where the UK has a reduced or no defence section.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on the EU Battlegroup, which countries were represented at the EU battlegroup observer's day to Exercise Druids Dance on 12 May; [210648]

(2) what the cost to his Department of hosting the EU Battlegroup observer's day to Exercise Druids Dance on 12 May was. [210647]

Des Browne: The cost to my Department of hosting the EU Battlegroup observers' day to Exercise Druids Dance, held on 12 May at the Land Warfare Centre on Salisbury Plain, was £622.12. This consisted of £446.25 to hire a coach, and £175.87 to provide lunch and refreshments. The observers were responsible for their own travel to the Land Warfare Centre and any hotel costs.

The following countries were represented at the EU Battlegroup observers' day: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The observers' day was also attended by representatives of the House of Commons Defence Committee and the House of Lords EU Scrutiny Committee.

Nuclear Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Rolls-Royce in determining the requirements for a new nuclear steam raising plant; and if he will make a statement. [210086]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Rolls-Royce is the technical authority and sole industrial supplier for the Ministry of Defence's nuclear propulsion plant. The Ministry of Defence has had extensive discussions over many months with Rolls-Royce in determining the requirement for the Next Generation Nuclear Propulsion Plant, which is intended to be used on the successor to the Vanguard class submarines.

Turkey: EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on Turkey's administrative agreement with the European Defence Agency. [210674]

Des Browne: We fully support Turkey's aspiration to have an administrative arrangement with the European Defence Agency (EDA). The establishment of such an administrative arrangement requires a unanimous European Council decision, which has not yet been possible. I regularly discuss approaches to resolving this issue with my European Union counterparts.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships are projected to be in service in the combined destroyer/frigate fleet in each year until the first Future Surface Combatant vessel enters service. [209992]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The 2004 Defence White Paper "Delivering Security in a Changing World, Future Capabilities" (Cm 6269) set the Navy's requirement for destroyers and frigates at 25. While this remains the number in service at present we keep future plans for all force levels under constant review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instruct Mr. Andrew Price of the Child Support Agency to reply to the hon. Member for Canterbury's letters of 29 November 2007 and 29 January 2008 on the case of his constituent, Mr. Alan Till. [207885]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 2 June 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the Hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive answer from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instruct Mr Andrew Price of the Child Support Agency to reply to the hon. Member for Canterbury's letters of 29th November 2007 and 29th January 2008 on the case of his constituent Mr Alan Till. (207885)

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Departmental Audit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library internal audit recommendations made in the last three years in relation to *(a)* Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* the Pension Service, *(c)* the Disability and Carers Directorate and *(d)* the Child Support Agency. [200795]

Mrs. McGuire: No, to do so would prejudice the effective conduct of internal audit work in Department for Work and Pensions.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200016]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table provides details of surveys, questionnaires and other services provided by polling companies for my Department during the financial year 2007-08.

Project	*Company*
Families and Children study	National Centre for Social Research
How do people think DWP should respond to the future	Ipsos MORI
Attitudes to state pensions	British Market Research Bureau
Living standards	National Centre for Social Research
Living standards (methodological work)	National Centre for Social Research
Community Care Grants	British Market Research Bureau
Claimants' experiences of changes in circumstances and the effect of recovering overpayments (Phases 2 and 3)	Social Policy Research Unit, University of York
NatCen Omnibus Survey - exploring attitudes to child poverty	National Centre for Social Research
British Social Attitudes Survey	National Centre for Social Research
NatCen Omnibus Survey - measuring PSA 17 (Later Life)	National Centre for Social Research
ONS Omnibus survey (disability Module)	Office for National Statistics
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing	National Centre for Social Research
Individuals' attitudes and likely reactions to the personal account reforms, 2007	Ipsos MORI
Reasons why individuals might remain in or opt out of the personal account scheme	
Employers' attitudes and likely reactions to the personal account reforms, 2007	British Market Research Bureau
Understanding employers' responses to the personal account reforms	British Market Research Bureau
Pensions Education Fund	IFF Research Ltd
Information Needs at Retirement	RS Consulting Ltd
Customer Purchase Outcome Survey	British Market Research Bureau
Trust and confidence in pensions and pension providers	British Market Research Bureau
Understanding why employees do not participate in employer pension schemes	Ipsos MORI
At Retirement Monitor 2007	Marketing Sciences Ltd
Retirement Planning Monitor 2007	Marketing sciences Ltd
Cost of running pension schemes: A feasibility study	RS consulting Ltd
Employers Pension Provision 2007	British Market Research Bureau
Understanding responses to pension forecasts	Independent social Research Ltd
Information needs of auto-enrolled individuals	British Market Research Bureau
State Pension Deferral	British Market Research Bureau
Accrual of basic state pension	National Centre for Social Research
Pension Service customer survey	British Market Research Bureau
Child Support and Relationship Breakdown survey	National Centre for social Research
Child support policy telephone survey	British Market Research Bureau
Public attitudes to key aspects of the welfare reform programme	Brahm
Attitudes to retirement	Ipsos MORI
Attitudes to pension saving	YouGov
NatCen Omnibus Survey (Module 1) -examining attitudes to mental health and employment	National Centre for Social Research
NatCen Omnibus Survey (Module 2) -examining attitudes to seeking psychological therapies for mental health conditions	National Centre for Social Research
Focus groups on assessing child support client information and support needs	CapGemini

Departmental Security

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have been dismissed from his Department as a consequence of a breach of security in the last three years. [210381]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: Information on the number of staff who have been dismissed as a consequence of a breach of security is not available in the format requested.

Since April 2007, when the new personal computer system was introduced, disciplinary action for breaches of security has been recorded under general headings of computer misuse or disclosure of information. There are currently no records held on the system for dismissals on grounds of computer misuse or disclosure of information.

To extract more detailed information from individual records under this category would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vetting

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1406-07W, on social security benefits: personal records, when the phased criminal record checks on all successful candidates for posts in his Department will have been completed. [200828]

Mr. Timms: The phased implementation of criminal records checks on all new successful applicants for posts in the Department is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the support and assistance available to get Employment and Support Allowance claimants back to work following the introduction of the allowance; and what estimate he has made of expenditure on such assistance. [208623]

Mr. Timms: Pathways to Work provides a single gateway to financial, employment and health support for people claiming incapacity benefits. Jobcentre Plus led Pathways to Work is currently operating in 40 per cent. of the country. Provider-led Pathways are currently operating in the remaining 60 per cent. In these areas providers have the flexibility to tailor the range of programmes that are available to customers in order to tailor provision to their needs. Pathways to Work forms the back-to-work support element of employment and support allowance.

Planned spending is £300 million in 2008-09, £390 million in 2009-10 and £400 million in 2010-11. Figures provided, particularly for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change.

Eyesight: Surgery

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received by the Health and Safety Executive about non-surgical laser and intensive pulsed light treatments in the last five years. [210100]

Mrs. McGuire: Health and Safety Executive would not be the recipient of such complaints as premises where non-surgical laser and intensive pulsed light treatments are undertaken are regulated by local authorities or in some cases the Healthcare Commission.

Food: Prices

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of changes in the price of food on benefit claimants; what consideration he has given to increasing benefit levels outside the annual uprating; and if he will make a statement. [205027]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to increase certain benefits from April of the following year.

The new rates are calculated for most benefits using the increase in the retail prices index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September. This measure is based on a year-on-year comparison of prices. Therefore any fluctuations in food prices will be taken into account in the benefit increases that will take effect from April 2009.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by each local authority on backdated payments of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in each of the last five years. [200096]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Employment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of jobs appropriate for incapacity benefit claimants coming off the benefit which will be available in each local authority area in Hampshire in 2010. [210717]

Mr. Plaskitt: We do not make assessments of what job opportunities are appropriate for those who leave incapacity benefit. Nor do we forecast the future availability of jobs. However, we are introducing reforms, such as the introduction of employment and support allowance, which mean the benefit system will be better placed to help claimants back into work and to find appropriate employment.

Incapacity Benefit: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what interim targets on reducing the number of incapacity benefit claimants he has set within the overall 2015 target; and if he will make a statement. [198773]

Mrs. McGuire: We are committed to meeting our stretching long-term goal, and believe it will support the delivery of real change over the coming years. Our upcoming Green Paper will consult on how best to build on our progress so far.

Income Support: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people started a claim for income support with disability premium in each of the last five years. [210198]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Income support on-flows with a disability premium

Flowed on in year ending	*Number*
November 2003	93,640
November 2004	86,740

Income support on-flows with a disability premium

Flowed on in year ending	Number
November 2005	85,930
November 2006	86,630
November 2007	85,890

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures relate to number of claims, not the number of people. If a person flows on to income support (IS) in the year ending November 2003, flows off IS, then flows back on in the year ending November 2005, s/he will be counted as an on-flow in both of those years.

Source:
DWP WPLS Experimental Benefit Flows Statistics.

Industrial Accidents: Wind Power

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fatal accidents were recorded in relation to the operation of wind turbines in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [209566]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 1997, HSE is aware of two fatalities related to the operation of the UK's wind energy industry. In Scotland in May 2007, a construction worker fell from height inside a wind turbine tower; and in Wales in March 2008 a worker who struck by a moving vehicle on a wind farm access road.

HSE is not the regulator for Northern Ireland (NI) but I am advised that there have been no fatalities related to wind turbines in NI since 1997.

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding Jobcentre Plus provides for computer training at home. [206612]

Mr. Timms: Jobcentre Plus does not provide funding for computer training at home. The overall strategy for contracted welfare to work training is based on improving the employability skills of unemployed customers by ensuring that provision is delivered by experts, in a structured manner and in a work-like environment. There are, however, opportunities for individuals to undertake computer-based home training which might be funded by other agencies, including the third sector.

There are currently no plans to change this policy. However, DWP will continue to undertake reviews of funding for, and the effectiveness of, its contracted employment provision.

Jobcentres

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will review arrangements for travel expenses for clients where no local Jobcentre Plus office exists; and if he will make a statement; [208902]

(2) if he will make it his policy to *(a)* permit telephone or postal signing on and *(b)* provide assistance towards travel expenses to allow claimants to sign on in person where local Jobcentre Plus offices have closed and claimants do not live near another office. [209752]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 16 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking if he will review arrangements for travel expenses for clients where no local Jobcentre Plus office exists; and if he will make a statement; and if he will make it his policy to (a) permit telephone or postal signing on and (b) provide assistance towards travel expenses to allow claimants to sign on in person where local Jobcentre Plus offices have closed and claimants do not live near another office. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

There are circumstances in which it is unreasonable to expect people to attend the Jobcentre and where reimbursement of travel expenses is appropriate.

Where it is unreasonable to expect someone to attend their nearest Jobcentre Plus office, we have long-standing arrangements that allow people to maintain their claim by post. These arrangements apply:

if the customer lives more than one hour (door to door) by public transport from the nearest office;

if attendance means being away from home in excess of four hours;

if the customer has a mental or physical disability that restricts mobility; and

in other exceptional circumstances for example, the customer would have to use a form of transport they would not ordinarily be expected to use on a regular basis, i.e. an inter-city train, ferry or plane.

Personal Adviser interviews for customers claiming Jobseekers Allowance are nearly always timed to coincide with regular jobsearch review appointments, so additional costs are not incurred for attending. We do pay travel expenses if a personal adviser appointment is:

in an office other than their normal office of attendance and they incur additional expenses for attending; or

in their normal office of attendance, but not on their normal day of attendance.

For customers claiming benefits other than Jobseekers Allowance, travel expenses are reimbursed for pre-arranged interviews, medical services examinations, work-focused interviews, new deal interviews and other work-related events.

These arrangements ensure people are only required to attend the Jobcentre where it is reasonable to expect them to do so and travel costs are reimbursed in appropriate circumstances. I therefore have no plans to review these existing arrangements.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseekers Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people claiming jobseekers allowance in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency. [209218]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants: April 2008

	Number
Leeds metropolitan district	12,475
Leeds West parliamentary constituency	1,851

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

Local Housing Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the number of cases in the deregulated private rented sector that will be in receipt of local housing allowance in 2008; [200459]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of cases that will be in receipt of the local housing allowance where the rent is paid directly to the claimant in 2008. [200460]

Mr. Plaskitt: The local housing allowance applied nationally to new claims and to those who move address from 7 April 2008. The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that 45 to 60 per cent. of Housing Benefit cases in the deregulated private rented sector will be subject to the local housing allowance in 2008-09. This would represent between 370,000 and 500,000 housing benefit cases.

In the local housing allowance pathfinder areas direct payments to claimants rose from 50 to 84 per cent. If direct payments to claimants rise nationally to a similar extent (for example to 80 per cent.), we expect approximately 300,000 to 400,000 local housing allowance cases will be paid their rent directly.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to migrants from EU A8 countries in each constituency in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* the East Midlands in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [202447]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 April 2008]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

Part-Time Employment: Parents

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of parents with children under the age of 16 years who work only during school terms. [210103]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number and proportion of parents with children under 16 years of age who work only during school terms. (210103)

In April-June 2007, an estimated 542,000 parents in employment with at least one child under 16 had an agreed 'term-time' working arrangement. This figure accounts for 7 per cent. of parents in employment with children under 16. Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets. They are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release.

In calculating the percentage, people who did not answer the LFS question about flexible working arrangements have been excluded.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Pension Credit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on recipients of reducing the length of time for which pension tax credit may be backdated from 12 to three months. [209799]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The Department has conducted an equality impact assessment in respect of the proposed changes to the time for claiming pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit for those of pension credit age from 12 to three months and of the proposed change to the backdating period allowed within housing benefit and council tax benefit for working age customers from 52 weeks to three months. The equality impact assessment has been published on the Department for Work and Pensions website and can be accessed using the following link.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/PC-HB-CTB-EIA-Apr08.pdf

Pensions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the financial impact on participating companies of the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will make a statement. [210760]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I receive representations about the financial impact of the Pension Protection Fund on a routine basis.

The calculation of the pension protection levy is a matter for the board of the PPF under section 175 of the Pensions Act 2004, subject to the limits set by Parliament. PPF is currently seeking to collect £675 million for 2008-09 within a ceiling of £833,410,200. The board has decided that for 2008-09 no bill should exceed one per cent. of liabilities (a reduction from 1.25 per cent. for the previous year).

Post Office Card Account

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the Pensions Service is informing individual state pension claimants in correspondence that the Post Office Card Account service will no longer be available from 2010; and if he will make a statement. [208687]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* While the existing Post Office card account contract ends in March 2010, there will be a successor product, and DWP is in the process of tendering for a supplier.

I am aware of a recent occasion where an individual customer was mistakenly given incomplete information and we are writing to the person concerned to apologise.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pensioners in each region who will be eligible for means-tested benefits in each year until 2050; [195735]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioners who will have marginal deduction rates of *(a)* zero to 10 per cent., *(b)* 11 to 20 per cent., *(c)* 21 to 30 per cent., *(d)* 31 to 40 per cent., *(e)* 41 to 50 per cent., *(f)* 51 to 60 per cent., *(g)* 61 to 70 per cent., *(h)* 71 to 80 per cent., *(i)* 81 to 90 per cent. and *(j)* 91 to 100 per cent. in each year until 2050. [195736]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested.

Measures to improve the coverage and generosity of the state pension together with reform of the savings credit are projected to reduce the proportion of pensioner households entitled to income related benefits over the long term.

Updated projections of the proportion of pensioner households eligible to income related benefits have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people who will flow on to the employment and support allowance in each of the next five years he estimates will be claiming the benefit by the *(a)* income channel and *(b)* contribution channel; [209936]

(2) how many people he estimates will flow on to *(a)* the support channel and *(b)* the work channel of the employment and support allowance in each of the next five years; [209937]

(3) how many people he estimates will flow on to the work channel of the employment and support allowance and be claiming the benefit by *(a)* the income channel and *(b)* the contribution channel in the next five years; [209938]

(4) how many people he expects will flow onto the support channel of the employment and support allowance and be claiming the benefit by *(a)* the income channel and *(b)* the contribution channel. [210200]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answers 10 June and 11 June 2008]:* We expect that 10 per cent. of new employment and support allowance customers will flow into the support group, and that 90 per cent of new employment and support allowance customers will flow into the work related activity group.

Information is available up to the end of the Government's spending plan period, to 2010-11. The information is summarised in the following table.

Employment and support allowance: Estimated benefit onflows

Thousand

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Employment and support allowance	280	580	600
Of which:			
Income-based only	140	290	300
Contributory only	130	265	275
Both	10	25	25
Work related activity group	250	520	540
Of which:			
Income-based only	125	260	270
Contributory only	115	240	250
Both	10	25	25
Support group	30	60	60
Of which:			
Income-based only	15	30	30
Contributory only	15	25	30
Both	Negligible	5	5

Notes:

1. Figures for 2008-09 relate to six months only; ESA will be introduced in October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five thousand. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Figures are consistent with benefit expenditure tables available on the DWP website through the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Social Security Benefits: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid in *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit to people in (i) working age households and (ii) working age households in receipt of out-of-work benefits in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [210938]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Cohabitation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change in his Department's expenditure on benefits resulted from treating cohabiting couples the same as married couples for the purpose of benefit calculation in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [208416]

Mr. Plaskitt: Treating cohabiting couples in the same way as married couples for the purpose of benefit entitlement is a longstanding principle. There has therefore been no change in the Department's expenditure on benefits for cohabiting couples.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive *(a)* the disability premium for income support, *(b)* enhanced disability premium for income support, *(c)* the severe disability premium for income support and *(d)* both incapacity benefit and the enhanced disability premium for income support. [211034]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 2008]:* The information requested is given in the following table.

Number of income support claimants by type of disability premium, Great Britain, November 2007

Type of disability premium	*Number of IS claimants*
Disability premium only	805,600
Disability premium and enhanced disability premium	159,220
Disability premium and severe disability premium	218,520
Enhanced disability premium and also claiming Incapacity Benefit	144,300

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Income Support claimants may be entitled to more than one disability premium.
3. Overlaps between disability premiums have been removed.
4. Figures exclude residual Minimum Income Guarantee claimants.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* received a custodial sentence in respect of an offence of benefit fraud in (i) each of the last two years and (ii) each quarter of each of the last two years; and how many were dealt with by way of caution in the same period. [206260]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table. The information for 2007-08 is not yet complete.

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences and cautions for benefit fraud in Great Britain

2006-07	*Convicted*	*Custodial*	*Cautions*
Q1	1,972	222	3,282
Q2	1,790	146	3,221
Q3	1,408	137	2,970
Q4	1,708	108	2,503
Total	6,878	613	11,976

Source:
2006-07 figures are FIBS (Fraud Information by Sector) only.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of benefit overpayments due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* official error and *(c)* customer error, broken down by (i) Jobcentre Plus district, (ii) region, (iii) constituency and (iv) local authority area in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [211155]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost which would arise from (a) increasing the state pension by (i) 10 per cent., (ii) 25 per cent., by 50 per cent. and (iv) 100 per cent. and (b) setting the state pension at the average level of other EU member states. [205202]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The net additional cost of increasing the basic state pension by 10 per cent, 25 per cent, 50 per cent or 100 per cent. instead of the current baseline assumption of RPI or 2.5 per cent, whichever is the highest, in the year 2009-10 is given in the following table.

Uprating the basic state pension in 2009-10 by: per cent.	*Net additional annual cost in 2009-10 (£ billion, 2008-09 prices)*
10	2.7
25	8.7
50	18.8
100	39.7

Notes:
1. Estimates are presented in net terms reflecting that the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments have been estimated using the Department's policy simulation model and are assumed to remain constant over time.
2. In the baseline costing for the financial year 2009/10 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with Budget 2008 have been used to model basic State Pension uprating.
3. Estimates are in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £100 million.
Source:
DWP modelling

Data are not available to make a direct comparison of the UK state pension level with that of the average level of other EU member states. The level of state pensions in each country reflects differences in factors, such as Government policy choices and the cost of living, making cross-country comparisons difficult. However, Eurostat data indicate that taking into account all sources of income, UK pensioners have the fifth highest median net income in the EU.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change in the average state pension was in real terms in each year since 1979. [208343]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of the real value of the basic state pension in each year from 1979 to 2006 can be found in "The Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings" (2006), produced by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The 2007 update of this publication is due for release later this summer.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the average state pension would be today if the link between earnings and pension levels had been continuously maintained. [208344]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Average weekly payments of the state pension were estimated at approximately £97 in 2007-08; this amount is comprised of both the basic state pension and additional state pension. Had the basic state pension remained linked to earnings since 1980, the average state pension is estimated to have been around £140 a week in 2007-08.

During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.

To 2008-09, the Government will be spending around £8.3 billion more on pensioners due to tax and benefit changes since 1997, than just restoring an earnings link from 1997 would have delivered. Pensioners are on average, £19 a week better off in 2008-09 as a result of Government measures since 1997, than if an earnings link had been applied to the basic state pension from 1997. The poorest third of pensioners are around £33 a week better off.

Notes:

1. The amount estimated is for GB pensioners as at September 2007.

2. The average earnings figures used to calculate the pension uprating in each year were taken from the New Earnings Survey prior to 1998 and from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings since 1998.

3. The earnings-related element of the state pension—the state second pension (S2P), is uprated by earnings in accrual. In 2005-06, around 26 million individuals were accruing some entitlement to S2P.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department has made an assessment of the merits of introducing a results-only work environment within the Civil Service. [210060]

Mr. Watson: Civil Service pay awards reflect an individual's outputs, results and performance rather than hours worked or presence at the workplace. Under the delegated arrangements for staff below the Senior Civil Service, Departments and agencies must have reward systems that include a close and effective link between pay and performance. For the Senior Civil Service, for whom pay is managed by the Cabinet Office, non-consolidated payments, which have to be earned each year, are used to incentivise staff to deliver business objectives successfully.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Prime Minister's Office spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208522]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. Information on how much the Cabinet Office spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company, is not fully available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Records: Lost Property

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when on 11 June 2008 the Prime Minister was first informed of the loss of intelligence documents relating to Al Qaeda from the Cabinet Office. [211586]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made in the House on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 487.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195874]

Phil Hope: Our Environmental Policy contains our policy on sustainable operations:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/working_for/corporate_social_responsibility/environmental_policy.aspx

Departmental progress is reported annually by the Sustainable Development Commission.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of providing an abortion on the NHS was in the last 12 months. [211447]

Dawn Primarolo: The average cost of providing an abortion on the national health service in 2006-07[1] was £650.

Source:

1. Data from NHS Reference Costs. Data for 2007-08 are due to be published in December 2008.

Air Ambulance Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what personnel make up an air ambulance team; and which personnel are funded by the NHS; [211282]

(2) what percentage of air ambulances are staffed by personnel funded by the NHS. [211283]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on personnel that make up an air ambulance team is not collected centrally.

The Government appreciate that air ambulances have a role in delivering emergency care, but are also aware that they are very expensive to operate and that past research failed to show that they were strong candidates to be funded wholly from finite national health service resources. In view of these factors, and to strike an appropriate balance, the NHS has, since 1 April 2002, normally met the cost of clinical staff on air ambulances. However, the exact make-up of such funded clinical staff will be a matter for the NHS and the air ambulance charities to agree locally.

Ambulance Services: Heart Diseases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* stroke and *(b)* heart attack patients died on a journey to hospital in an ambulance in each year since 1997; and how long each journey was in (i) miles and (ii) minutes. [210142]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The ambulance response data that are collected centrally, and which include the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England and their performances against the targets set, are published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, 'Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07' was published in June 2007 and copies are available in the Library.

Arthritis: Medical Treatments

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what submissions he has received on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recent guidance on the sequential prescribing of anti-TNF drugs to treat NHS patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [210475]

Ann Keen: The Department has received no submissions on this guidance.

Departmental Electricity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total quantity of electricity in kilowatts consumed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [188977]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last five years the total quantity of electricity kilowatts consumed by the Department were:

	kilowatts
2002-03	13,779,000
2003-04	13,914,000
2004-05	14,219,000
2005-06	13,469,000
2006-07	12,340,000

The Department's agencies consumed:

	kilowatts
2002-03	593,896
2003-04	578,984
2004-05	580,332
2005-06	640,780
2006-07	2,371,986

The information in this answer covers the Department's central London administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House HM Revenue and Customs and Quarry House in Leeds Department for Work and Pensions and the data for these sites are not available to us. Reductions in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are due to the closure of two London buildings, Eileen House and Hannibal House.

For the Department's agencies this answer provides data on two agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. MHRA do not have data relating to electricity consumption prior to 2007, hence the larger figure for 2006-07. The data supplied for NHS PASA relate to electricity consumed at their Reading, Chester and Sheffield sites.

The overall reduction in the departmental administrative estate represents a reduction in CO_2 emissions in line with our commitment to climate change objectives.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187539]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely analyse staff expenses by grade of staff as this is not a requirement of our statutory reporting. A considerable manual exercise would need to be undertaken to separate the expenses of each member of the Senior Civil Service from those of other staff in order to provide this information. Such an exercise would incur disproportionate costs.

Similarly, information by grade on the expenses of staff employed in the Department's agencies is not routinely collected.

Departments and agencies have authority to reimburse expenses incurred by their staff in connection with their employment, subject to the conditions set out in section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code which state that Departments and agencies must:

> reimburse staff only for expenses which they actually and necessarily incur in the course of official business;
>
> comply with the additional conditions and rules on travel, relocation expenses, compensation for loss or damage to property, and overseas expenses set out in sections 8.2 to 8.6 of the Code; and
>
> ensure that their rules provide for claiming recompense, including verification and authorisation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208379]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures requested are provided in the following table:

Group	*Number receiving bonuses*	*Proportion of bonuses to this group (percentage)*
Males	95	59.0
Females	66	41.0
Ethnic minorities[1]	6	4.3
Disabled[2]	10	6.8
All recipients of bonuses	161	100

[1] Where ethnicity is recorded.

[2] Where disabled status is recorded.

Notes:

1. Ethnicity type is unknown in 21 cases where bonuses were awarded.
2. Disability status is unknown in 15 cases where bonuses were awarded.

Information on civil servants' sexual orientation is not currently collected or published.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008, if he will provide a breakdown of the other allocations budget in figure 9.18 for each financial year. [209141]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Breakdown of other allocations budget in figure 9.18 of the departmental report for each financial year

		£ million
Budget	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Health Improvement and Protection	232.516	312.022
Communications	0.500	—
Commissioning	58.387	98.695
Provider Development	20.028	—
Workforce	210.322	230.245
Finance and Operations Directorate	93.254	66.982
Commercial	90.000	12.533
Chief Nursing Officer	38.355	37.951
Social Care	71.481	72.963
Policy and Strategy	—	7.166
Equality and Human Rights	3.750	3.951
NHS Finance Performance and Operations	—	70.116
NHS Medical Director	30.895	91.892
SHA Allocations	150.000	106.000
Technical non-cash costs	205.400	-123.727
Contingency	187.104	7.000
Dentistry	58.543	—
Total	1,450.535	993.790

[1] Indicative.

Note:

The table shows budgets for both financial years as, at the time of publication of the departmental report, the 2007-08 outturn figures were not known and the 2008-09 budget figures were still indicative.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 148 of his Department's Annual Report 2008 , if he will break down the 'other' budget in Figure 9.19 for each financial year. [209189]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested in shown in the following table.

Breakdown of other allocations budget in figure 9.19 of the departmental report for each financial year

		£ million
Budget	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Health Improvement and Protection	210.175	234.798
Healthcare Quality	11.110	4.955
Research and Development	33.164	—
Communications	12.500	13.352
Workforce	133.636	142.872
Commissioning	—	5.669
Chief Nursing Officer	17.200	11.417
Social Care	37.207	48.873
NHS Medical Director	9.450	31.869
Policy and Strategy	—	17.664
Total	464.442	511.469

Note:

The table shows budgets for both financial years as, at the time of publication of the departmental report, the 2007-08 outturn figures were not known and the 2008-09 budget figures were still indicative.

Donors: Health Education

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many secondary schools have been sent information about the Give and Let Live donor education programme; and how many of them have participated in the programme. [214368]

Dawn Primarolo: In total 5,613 schools were sent information about the Give and Let Live pack. I regret that the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 152W, on the number of schools which had requested a copy of the pack was incorrect. The pack was requested by 1,746 schools.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* deaths arising from female genital mutilation in each of the last three years. [211047]

Dawn Primarolo: 'A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in England and Wales', funded by this Department, was published by *Forward* in October 2007. Copies of this publication have been placed in the Library.

Data about the numbers of girls and women admitted to hospital or killed as a result of this crime are not available centrally.

Note:

Type III FGM is described as excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (infibulation). Type II FGM is described as excision of the clitoris with partial or total removal of the labia minora.

General Practitioners: Birmingham

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what local leadership there was for the development of the proposals to establish new GP practices in Birmingham; and what the duration of each primary care trust consultation with *(a)* patients, *(b)* carers, *(c)* the public and *(d)* key partners was on (i) the principle and (ii) the practice of the establishment of new practices. [210262]

Mr. Bradshaw: The three primary care trusts (PCTs) covering Birmingham (Heart of Birmingham PCT, Birmingham East and North PCT and South Birmingham PCT) have developed proposals to establish new general practitioner (GP) led health centres and additional GP practices to improve access to primary care services. These proposals are currently the subject of three separate public consultations, the last of which concludes on 24 August 2008.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when primary care trusts in Birmingham were informed that they were to be allocated funding to establish new GP practices; and what assessment had been undertaken to assess *(a)* the need for new practices and *(b)* whether this was the best means of improving access to GP services. [210263]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department announced in December 2007 which primary care trusts would receive funding to establish new general practitioner (GP) practices. 100 new practices are being set up in the areas with the greatest need for additional GP practices. Primary care trusts in Birmingham are currently carrying out public consultation on where the six additional GP practices proposed for the city should be situated.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future levels of spending in GP surgeries, with particular reference to services for hard to reach vulnerable patients. [209498]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are committed to working with general practitioners (GPs) to reduce health inequalities and to improve access to services, particularly for hard to reach vulnerable patients. Our new contract introduced in 2004 saw record investment in primary medical care—an extra £2.7 billion since 2002-03.

Through NHS Employers, we have been consulting the British Medical Association on a package of investment of up to £100 million through existing GP practices to further improve care and services for patients. This will included targeted improvements especially for vulnerable patients such as those with severe learning difficulties.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private companies representatives of his Department have met to discuss plans for GP-led health centres in each primary care trust area in the last 12 months. [205217]

Mr. Bradshaw: Meetings have taken place with a number of organisations on a range of issues but none has specifically focused on the procurements of new practices and health centres in primary care trust areas. However, it is for the local NHS who are leading on these procurements to engage the range of providers interested in tendering for the service.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for endocrinology services in hospital trusts in the North West in the latest period for which figures are available. [205066]

Mr. Bradshaw: Too few patients are waiting to be able to calculate a statistically meaningful median. Instead, the following tables provide information on the number of patients waiting, by time band.

By the end of 2008, all patients on consultant-led pathways can expect to start any necessary treatment within 18 weeks, unless they choose not to, or it would be clinically appropriate to wait longer. This includes patients waiting for endocrinology services, where that forms part of a consultant-led pathway.

Patients waiting for elective in-patient admission and first consultant out-patient appointment: North West Strategic Health Authority area—position at 30 September 2007

		Weeks															
	Total waiting list	*Less than 1*	*1 to <2*	*2 to <3*	*3 to <4*	*4 to <5*	*5 to <6*	*6 to <7*	*7 to <8*	*8 to <9*	*9 to <10*	*10 to <11*	*11 to <12*	*12 to <13*	*13 to <14*	*14 to <15*	*15+*
In-patients																	
Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	28	6	5	5	2	2	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	42	8	8	5	6	4	2	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	84	32	7	8	4	1	4	6	3	7	4	1	3	2	0	2	0

Patients waiting for elective in-patient admission and first consultant out-patient appointment: North West Strategic Health Authority area—position at 30 September 2007

		Weeks															
	Total waiting list	*Less than 1*	*1 to <2*	*2 to <3*	*3 to <4*	*4 to <5*	*5 to <6*	*6 to <7*	*7 to <8*	*8 to <9*	*9 to <10*	*10 to <11*	*11 to <12*	*12 to <13*	*13 to <14*	*14 to <15*	*15+*
Out-patients																	
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	67	19	14	13	9	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust	17	2	6	4	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	48	11	14	10	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	100	21	18	16	26	7	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Cheshire NHS Trust	12	4	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	55	11	6	10	4	4	5	4	3	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	39	14	8	3	5	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	129	18	14	13	15	18	9	11	12	10	7	0	1	1	0	0	0
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	7	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	76	17	20	15	5	4	8	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Patients waiting for elective in-patient admission and first consultant out-patient appointment: North West Strategic Health Authority area—position at 30 September 2007

		Weeks															
	Total waiting list	Less than 1	1 to <2	2 to <3	3 to <4	4 to <5	5 to <6	6 to <7	7 to <8	8 to <9	9 to <10	10 to <11	11 to <12	12 to <13	13 to <14	14 to <15	15+
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	34	8	6	10	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	28	10	3	3	8	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Lancashire Hospital NHS Trust	22	7	1	6	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources:
In-patients: Department of Health form KH07
Out-patients: Department of Health form QM08ns

December 2007: Diagnostic census for waits of over six weeks for endocrinology

	6+ weeks	13+ weeks
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	4	0
North Cumbria Acute NHS Trust	1	1
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1
North Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust	1	0

Note:
Census only collects waits of over six weeks
Source:
Diagnostic census

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for *(a)* gunshot and *(b)* knife wounds at hospitals in each strategic health authority in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age, (ii) sex and (iii) ethnicity. [206489]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data are not held in the format requested. This is because of restrictions on the use of such data where the figures are very small. However, the following tables set out data, firstly by strategic health authority (SHA) and then, separately, by age and sex and ethnicity.

Count of finished admissions with a gunshot related injury by SHA for period 1997-98 to 2006-07, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	SHA	2006-07
Q30	North East SHA	71
Q31	North West SHA	278
Q32	Yorkshire and Humber SHA	138
Q33	East Midlands SHA	96
Q34	West Midlands SHA	172
Q35	East of England SHA	103
Q36	London SHA	209
Q37	South East Coast SHA	73
Q38	South Central SHA	57
Q39	South West SHA	79
	Unknown and Non England	39
	Total	1,315

	SHA	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	32	29	42	23	42	30	45	49	31
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	19	16	41	26	21	26	25	14	15
Q03	Essex SHA	21	26	27	29	25	27	37	32	24
Q04	North West London SHA	50	43	71	52	32	29	26	18	35
Q05	North Central London SHA	31	25	38	29	51	29	23	14	22
Q06	North East London SHA	64	48	69	74	59	47	41	26	24
Q07	South East London SHA	75	52	55	55	56	45	38	42	43
Q08	South West London SHA	34	21	23	21	21	13	23	13	18

	SHA	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	22	31	35	30	47	52	49	51	41
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	28	22	25	39	37	28	28	35	31
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	41	35	46	41	47	40	29	32	15
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	69	64	82	83	101	67	63	54	57
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	42	54	51	57	63	62	52	44	53
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	101	108	111	115	123	110	146	96	97
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	108	98	116	85	97	69	74	72	58
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	29	23	34	31	36	37	37	23	27
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	27	24	34	19	32	27	32	23	26
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	26	33	32	30	47	28	14	20	24
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	39	44	40	28	42	27	25	39	31
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	40	39	40	43	48	31	39	27	34
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	22	27	36	26	24	29	31	24	25
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	28	14	14	11	29	14	13	23	15
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	50	55	40	62	61	48	42	38	24
Q24	Trent SHA	52	46	74	83	69	46	66	63	54
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	19	22	25	16	28	28	27	25	32
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	23	14	25	29	28	29	37	28	30
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	67	73	76	89	86	62	59	27	50
Q28	West Midlands South SHA	38	44	37	28	21	24	26	22	18
	Unknown and Non-England	36	33	31	33	47	18	23	13	40
	Total	1,233	1,163	1,370	1,287	1,420	1,122	1,170	987	994

Count of finished admissions with a knife related injury by SHA for period 1997-98 to 2006-07, national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	SHA	2006-07
Q30	North East SHA	362
Q31	North West SHA	797
Q32	Yorkshire and Humber SHA	608
Q33	East Midlands SHA	444
Q34	West Midlands SHA	500
Q35	East of England SHA	494
Q36	London SHA	731
Q37	South East Coast SHA	411
Q38	South Central SHA	367
Q39	South West SHA	463
	Unknown and Non England	107
	Total	5,284

	SHA	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	175	198	199	202	175	205	179	173	169
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	145	154	150	154	124	122	108	87	94
Q03	Essex SHA	225	222	210	216	208	209	202	170	175
Q04	North West London SHA	239	201	224	222	211	225	228	154	153
Q05	North Central London SHA	105	80	91	71	76	56	56	51	46
Q06	North East London SHA	197	226	180	158	170	128	136	115	119
Q07	South East London SHA	116	125	106	136	101	83	76	71	71
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	139	106	148	160	119	107	69	97	34
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	237	232	251	215	196	183	171	148	155
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	155	197	183	155	201	153	168	144	103
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	174	214	213	201	192	153	160	173	78
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	247	237	250	255	248	238	253	296	254
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	188	144	162	187	171	205	175	210	177
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	276	312	274	252	378	318	302	320	285
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	326	279	245	226	211	183	169	186	164
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	194	185	178	153	137	165	153	138	134

	SHA	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	144	103	74	106	92	125	143	113	86
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	174	115	126	146	123	165	144	68	105
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	274	262	240	227	189	201	212	140	138
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	248	216	211	195	180	193	233	192	177
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	153	112	117	140	132	129	110	122	112
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	104	82	93	99	79	103	91	110	84
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	117	99	136	146	126	120	128	43	47
Q24	Trent SHA	236	214	235	225	218	225	206	201	166
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	144	102	103	57	103	117	110	72	95
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	111	112	103	91	106	103	98	92	95
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	224	201	206	224	182	195	200	180	137
Q28	West Midlands South SHA	119	103	124	105	124	118	104	87	94
	Unknown and Non-England	135	106	89	81	95	80	78	39	183
	Total	5,321	4,939	4,921	4,805	4,667	4,607	4,462	4002	3 730

Count of finished admissions for gunshot wounds and knife related injuries by age and gender for period 1997-98 to 2006-07. NHS hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Female			*Male*		
	Under 18	*18 and over*	*Unknown*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Unknown*
2006-07						
Gunshot wound	53	104	—	273	884	1
Knife wound	135	1,291	—	398	3,460	—
2005-06						
Gunshot wound	38	82	—	234	878	1
Knife wound	148	1,341	—	438	3,393	1
2004-05						
Gunshot wound	40	103	—	267	752	1
Knife wound	118	1,248	—	402	3,169	1
2003-04						
Gunshot wound	53	91	—	337	887	2
Knife wound	117	1,233	2	393	3,176	—
2002-03						
Gunshot wound	55	71	—	361	799	1
Knife wound	132	1,137	—	439	3,097	—
2001-02						
Gunshot wound	78	111	1	390	838	1
Knife wound	118	1,193	—	435	2,884	1
2000-01						
Gunshot wound	46	75	—	380	618	2
Knife wound	138	1,110	1	402	2,948	4
1999-2000						
Gunshot wound	53	65	—	442	609	1
Knife wound	123	1,044	2	417	2,871	2
1998-99						
Gunshot wound	47	71	—	334	533	2
Knife wound	130	877	1	385	2,607	2
1997-98						
Gunshot wound	55	67	2	316	545	7
Knife wound	94	853	14	348	2,372	46

	Not Known			Not Specified			Total
	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	
2006-07							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,315
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,284
2005-06							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,233
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,321
2004-05							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,163
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,939
2003-04							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,370
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,921
2002-03							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,287
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,805
2001-02							
Gunshot wound	—	—	1	—	—	—	1,420
Knife wound	—	—	36	—	—	—	4,667
2000-01							
Gunshot wound	1	—	—	—	—	—	1,122
Knife wound	3	1	—	—	—	—	4,607
1999-2000							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,170
Knife wound	—	1	—	—	2	—	4,462
1998-99							
Gunshot wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	987
Knife wound	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,002
1997-98							
Gunshot wound	1	1	—	—	—	—	994
Knife wound	—	3	—	—	—	—	3,730

Count of finished admissions for gunshot wounds and knife related injuries by ethnicity for period 2002-03 to 2006-07, national heath service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Group	Not known	Not Stated	Total
2006-07								
Gunshot wound	809	16	40	114	42	60	234	1,315
Knife wound	3,574	71	239	112	132	253	903	5,284
2005-06								
Gunshot wound	705	12	28	118	29	79	262	1,233
Knife wound	3,412	55	206	95	131	224	1,198	5,321
2004-05								
Gunshot wound	641	15	31	81	17	93	285	1,163
Knife wound	3,142	38	175	104	102	255	1,123	4,939
2003-04								
Gunshot wound	698	15	46	98	29	103	381	1,370

Count of finished admissions for gunshot wounds and knife related injuries by ethnicity for period 2002-03 to 2006-07, national heath service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Group	Not known	Not Stated	Total
Knife wound	2,956	46	147	97	69	332	1,274	4,921
2002-03								
Gunshot wound	594	20	49	88	21	106	409	1,287
Knife wound	2,754	35	181	88	80	282	1,385	4,805

London Airports

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times his Department hired VIP facilities at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Luton and *(d)* Stansted airports in each month since May 2006; and what the expenditure on VIP facilities at each was in each of those months. [205005]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not record the hire of VIP facilities. To collect the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Details of the cost of overseas travel for Cabinet Ministers, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007 and is available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

Details of the cost of overseas travel for all Ministers for the 2007-08 financial year will be published shortly.

All ministerial travel is made in accordance with the "Ministerial Code". Travel for staff and special advisers is made in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code". Copies of both publications are available in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle Central on the date of the publication of the report from the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. [209753]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 23 May 2008.

Monitor: Operating Costs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the running costs of Monitor are expected to be in the next 12 months. [209591]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have been advised by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that Monitor's 'Business Plan 2008-09' states the total required budget of the organisation for the year 2008-09 is £16.175 million.

Monitor: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members of the board of Monitor are; and what the professional expertise of each is. [209593]

Mr. Bradshaw: The board members of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) are listed as follows along with their professional biographies:

Dr. William Moyes (Executive Chairman)

Dr. Moyes was previously Director-General of the British Retail Consortium from 2000-03 and Head of the Infrastructure Investments Department at the Bank of Scotland. He joined the British Linen Bank (a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland) in 1994. Before that, he held a variety of posts in the Scottish Office, including Director of Strategy and Performance Management in the Management Executive of the national health service in Scotland. He joined the civil service in 1974 in the then Department of the Environment and was a member of the Economic Secretariat in the Cabinet Office between 1980 and 1983;

Mr. Christopher Mellor (Deputy Chairman)

Mr. Mellor is also Non-Executive Chairman of Water Services in Northern Ireland and is Senior Independent Non-Executive Director of Grontmij UK Ltd., the consulting engineers' firm. He retired as Chief Executive of Anglian Water Group plc in March 2003, after 13 years with the company. Previously he was a Non-Executive Director of Addenbrooke's NHS Trust between 1994 and 1998, where he was Chair of the Audit Committee. Chris Mellor was also a member of the Government's Advisory Committee on Business in the Environment;

Mr. Stephen Thornton (Non-Executive Director)

Stephen Thornton is Chief Executive of The Health Foundation, which is an independent healthcare charitable foundation working to improve the quality of healthcare in the UK. He has held various senior executive NHS management and board positions over the last 15 years. He was Chief Executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority from 1993 to 1997, and Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation from 1997 to 2001. He was a Commissioner on the Board of the Healthcare Commission from February 2004 until July 2006;

Baroness Elaine Murphy (Non-Executive Director)

Baroness Elaine Murphy is a clinician by background and was Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at Guys and St. Thomas's Hospitals 1983 to 1996. At the time she also held an NHS general management position. Over the last 12 years she has held a wide range of executive/non-executive board positions covering a wide range of areas including the voluntary sector and the Mental Health Act Commission. She was Chair of the North East London Strategic Health Authority until 30 June 2006. She is also Chair of St. George's Medical School and sits in the House of Lords as a crossbencher; and

Ms Jude Goffe (Non-Executive Director)

A venture capital and corporate advisor, Ms Goffe is also a trustee of the King's Fund. She has previously served as a Non-Executive Director of the Independent Television Commission and a Non-Executive Director of Moorfields Eye Hospital Trust from 1994-2004. Ms Goffe also chaired the trust's Audit and Commercial Services Committees and was a member of its Remuneration Committee. Between 1984 and 1991 she was employed by the 3i Group plc in a number of investment roles, culminating in the position of Investment Director. Ms Goffe is a chartered accountant by profession.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding was provided per capita in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [209351]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information in the exact format requested is not collected in the audited accounts but can be derived from other information held centrally.

The following table shows the revenue resource limits (RRLs) per capita for Suffolk and England, for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07, which are the latest years for which these data are available by individual health body.

		£ per head
	Suffolk[1]	*England*[2]
2002-03	[3]786.04	959.39
2003-04	855.91	1,075.42
2004-05	981.09	1,228.80
2005-06	1,020.67	1,325.87
2006-07	1,091.88	1,397.55

[1] Figures for Suffolk—RRL data for 2002-03 to 2006-07 relate to all PCTs in Suffolk and take account of any adjustments made to initial allocations, including both topslice and repayment of topslice.

[2] England: RRL data for 2002-03 to 2006-07 relate to all health authorities and PCTs.

[3] As 2002-03 population figures were not available we have used 2001-02 population data as a proxy.

Note:

The figures represent expenditure by the particular commissioners within the areas specified. This does not include all health related expenditure as pharmaceutical services and most general dental services expenditure is not accounted for by commissioners.

Sources:

Audited primary care trust (PCT) summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2006-07

Unweighted population figures Department of Health Allocations Branch

NHS: Private Sector

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, whether there is a *(a)* legislative and *(b)* other basis for the principle that an individual cannot simultaneously be a national health service and a privately-funded patient of the same national health service hospital within the same episode of care. [208440]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 1 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (which is essentially the same as section 1 of the original NHS Act of 1946) says that national health service services:

> "...must be free of charge except in so far as the making and recovery of charges is expressly provided for by or under any enactment, whenever passed."

This prevents NHS bodies from accepting payments for NHS services, unless this is provided for in legislation. It also prevents an NHS body from providing an incomplete package of care which patients then 'top up'.

Patients can of course obtain additional treatment by becoming a private patient for a separate episode of care.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector what definition he uses of an episode of care; when an episode of care *(a)* begins and *(b)* ends; and if he will make a statement; [208441]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, and with reference to paragraph 23 of the 1986 guidance entitled "The Management of Private Practice in National Health Service hospitals in England and Wales", when private inpatients are permitted to change their status to NHS inpatients during the course of a single visit to an NHS hospital; [208443]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, and with reference to paragraph 23 of the 1986 guidance entitled "The Management of Private Practice in National Health Service Hospitals in England and Wales", whether private inpatients are only permitted to change their status during a course of a stay in hospital at the conclusion of an episode of care; [208444]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* mean length of an episode of care delivered in the NHS was in the most recent year for which figures are available; [208445]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, how many different types of episode of care exist; and for each whether other episodes of care are allowed to run concurrently with it; [208446]

(6) when his Department first collected information on episodes of care. [208447]

Mr. Bradshaw: As outlined in the 1986 guidance, "The Management of Private Practice in NHS Hospitals in England and Wales", the precise definition of an "episode of care" in this context is a judgment that must be made locally by clinicians and the local national health service, not by the Government, and so there is no reason to specify different types of episode of care. Clinicians may judge that treatments that run concurrently should be regarded as separate episodes.

With reference to paragraph 23, there are no restrictions on when a private inpatient may choose to become an NHS patient. However, the guidance says that private patients who change their status should have their clinical priority for treatment assessed, and should not gain any advantage over other NHS patients. This was reiterated in the 2004 guidance "A Code of Conduct for Private Practice—Recommended Standards of Practice for NHS Consultants", which said that:

> "a patient cannot be both a private and a NHS patient for the treatment of one condition during a single visit to a NHS organisation"; and

> "should a patient be admitted to an NHS hospital as a private inpatient, but subsequently decide to change to NHS status before having received treatment, there should be an assessment to determine the patient's priority for NHS care".

Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

Information on the number or lengths of these episodes of care is not collected centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on the NHS: private sector, and with reference to paragraph 14.2 of the 1986 guidance entitled "The Management of Private Practice in National Health Service Hospitals in England and Wales", what assessment he has made of the extent to which earlier private consultations lead to earlier NHS admission; and if he will make a statement. [208442]

Mr. Bradshaw: No assessment has been made centrally.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had NHS treatment withdrawn because they opted to pay for treatment outside the NHS in the last 12 months. [211280]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Recycling

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS trusts have recycling strategies; and if he will make a statement; [207168]

(2) whether he plans to review the health technical memorandum on managing waste; and if he will make a statement. [207200]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department produced the sustainable development: environmental strategy for the NHS in 2005 which advocates that national health service bodies produce locally based strategies and plans of action for a number of environmental aspects, including waste. The Department did not set targets specific for recycling but rather adopted a more holistic waste management regime based on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affair's (DEFRA's) 'Waste not want not' report and the waste strategy recommendations. This aims to prevent waste occurring in the first instance, advocating a waste hierarchy approach with reduction, reuse and recycling being addressed.

The Department does not retain records of those trusts that have produced recycling strategies. In recognising the importance of recycling as part of the waste hierarchy, the Department collects information about waste produced and recycling undertaken by the NHS in England. The NHS reported that on average it recycled 14 per cent. of its waste in 2006-07.

Health technical memorandum HTM 07-01 'Environment and Sustainability: Safe Management of healthcare waste' was published in 2006 and provides a framework for best practice waste management to help healthcare organisations and other producers to meet legislative requirements. The Department has made plans to review HTM 07-01 during 2008 and is consulting with key stakeholders in DEFRA and the Department for Transport, as well as the regulators, as part of this process.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were taken by NHS Direct in each month in 2007; and what the average cost to the public purse was of each call in 2007. [208425]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table:

2007	*Total number of calls taken*
January	682,892
February	602,188
March	619,917
April	635,812
May	678,417
June	669,796
July	690,831
August	662,927
September	632,120
October	687,531
November	707,862
December	724,483
Total[1]	7,994,776

[1] Figures are for all calls to NHS Direct which includes calls to 0845 46 47 and other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners.

The average cost per call in the financial year 2007-08 was £15.35.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were made to NHS Direct in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006; what the forecast number of calls for each of those years was before the start of each year; and if he will make a statement. [208426]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Calls made to NHS Direct	*Actual*	*Forecast*
2006-07[1]	8,296,972	9,500,000
2007-08[2]	9,018,148	9,900,000

[1] Figures are provided for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

[2] Figures are for all calls to NHS Direct which includes calls to 0845 46 47 and other calls to services provided to national and local commissioners.

NICE

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent submissions he has received on the consideration given to cost by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its appraisal process of potential drug treatments; and if he will make a statement. [210759]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department regularly receives representations, from hon. Members and other interested parties, on different aspects of the work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE is responsible for determining the approach taken to cost in its technology appraisal work.

Pharmacy: General Practitioners

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the *(a)* viability and *(b)* distribution of GP surgeries of preventing such surgeries dispensing medicines; and if he will make a statement; [206391]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on patient choice of ceasing the practice of GP surgeries dispensing medicines; [206392]

(3) how many GP practices which dispense over-the-counter medicines are within one mile of a pharmacy. [206316]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no intention to abolish dispensing by general practitioners (GPs). The White Paper "Pharmacy in England Building on strengths - delivering the future" commits to carrying out a formal consultation that covers, among other things, the market entry controls that apply to pharmacy and dispensing doctor services. The consultation paper will be published later in the summer—after the publication of the primary and community care strategy—and will look at options for the future. Copies of the White Paper are available in the Library.

Information is not held centrally on how many of the number of GP practices which dispense medicines are within one mile of a pharmacy. However, the Department will carry out an analysis of the impact of any changes on the overall provision of primary medical services.

Polyclinics

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the General Medical Services budget for the next three years has been allocated to be spent on the implementation of the polyclinics recommended in Lord Darzi's review. [202133]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are investing an additional £250 million to provide patients with better access to primary care services. This new investment will deliver new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres in each primary care trust (PCT) area and over one hundred new GP practices targeted at under-served area. The funding for GP-led health centres has been included in PCT revenue allocations: £45 million in 2008-09, 120 million in 2009-10 and £120 million in 2010-11. PCT allocations are deliberately not broken down into individual funding streams as it is for PCTs to decide how best to deliver these new services in view of their local circumstances.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of a polyclinic is. [203397]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no standard definition of a polyclinic, which is why most of the debate about them is ill-informed and inaccurate. "Polyclinic" is usually a term used to describe a range of possible health service models characterised by the co-location and integration of different services, including those traditionally provided in a hospital setting.

London Strategic Health Authority has defined "polyclinic" service models that bring together a range of primary care services, specialist services, urgent care services and social care into either single centres or federated networks of care. However, this model is not being replicated across the country. Local commissioners will determine the scope and scale of these services in collaboration with their clinicians and patients to reflect local needs and circumstances.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the polyclinic model of health service delivery does not have an adverse impact on the continuity of care for people with long-term conditions currently afforded by the doctor-patient relationship in primary care. [204745]

Mr. Bradshaw: Patients with complex and/or multiple long-term conditions may wish to continue to see their registered general practitioner (GP). They may however, choose to register at a GP-led health centre and receive at least the same quality and continuity of care delivered by the GP and other primary care clinicians working in these facilities. Additionally, any member of the public may choose to visit a GP led health centre to see a GP or nurse and they can do this whilst still being registered with their own GP.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the decision to have a polyclinic in a primary care trust area is a decision to be made locally. [207298]

Mr. Bradshaw: How primary care trusts (PCTs) choose to configure or commission local primary medical care services is a local matter. However, all PCTs have been asked to commission additional general practitioner (GP)-led health centre services and have been given additional funding to secure those services. Patients want and expect to receive convenient access to GP services wherever they are. Therefore, providing locally accessible and convenient GP-led services from 8 am to 8 pm, seven days per week will help to ensure this is possible. PCTs will decide after local consultation where and how these services should be provided and will carry out an open and fair procurement to secure the services they specify.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts and doctors on developing proposals for polyclinics; and if he will make a statement. [207340]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not have a polyclinic policy. We are asking the local national health service to develop new general practitioner (GP)-led health centres for local communities. This does not mean applying the specific proposals for a polyclinic model of care on which the NHS in London has recently been consulting.

As part of our £250 million investment to improve access to primary medical care services, we have issued guidance to primary care trusts on how to complete open and fair local procurements to secure new GP practices and GP-led health centres. These are available on the Departments website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_082716

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Procurementandproposals/Procurement/ProcurementatPCTs/DH_081031

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has a *(a)* timetable for the establishment of and *(b)* target for the number of polyclinics in London; and if he will make a statement; [207351]

(2) what polyclinics *(a)* have been established in and *(b)* are planned for (i) Greater London and (ii) the south-east; and if he will make a statement. [207352]

Mr. Bradshaw: The organisation of health services is a matter for the national health service at local level. The hon. Member may wish to direct his question to the relevant primary care trust or strategic health authority.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department is contributing to the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming. [211449]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is planning to contribute £20 million of revenue funding in 2009-10 and 2010-11—a total of £40 million.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1786W, on children: day care, how many people with Early Years Professional Status will be required to meet the target of each full daycare setting being led by a graduate and those in the most disadvantaged areas being led by two graduates by 2015. [210688]

Beverley Hughes: We have a target of 20,000 to meet our aim to have an EYP in every full daycare setting with two per setting in disadvantaged areas by 2015.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places there are *(a)* with childminders, *(b)* in full daycare and *(c)* in out of school day care in the London borough of Bexley. [210939]

Beverley Hughes: Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. The following table shows the number of places for children under eight years of age registered with Ofsted at 31 March 2008 for Bexley local authority.

Number of registered childcare places for children under eight years of age in Bexley[1], position at 31 March 2008

	Number of places
Childminders	2,100
Full day care	1,400
Out of school daycare	1,000

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

Source:
Ofsted

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the funding required to implement the guidance set out in Sure Start Children Centres: Phase Three Planning and Delivery, issued in November 2007. [211200]

Beverley Hughes: We notified local authorities of their children's centres funding for the next three years (2008-11) in August 2007. The Government allocated around £3.1 billion to 150 local authorities which we believe is sufficient to support their existing Sure Start Children's Centres and to set up new centres, to deliver at least 3,500 centres in total by 2010.

The Phase 3 planning guidance contains hypothetical examples of levels of funding as a guideline based on centres serving different types of communities with around 800 children under five. It is for local authorities to determine how they allocate the grant locally to meet the needs in each community. Most Phase 3 centres, those opening between 2008 and 2010, will not incur full running costs for all of their services during this period.

Departmental Publications

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many guidance notes to *(a)* nurseries, *(b)* children's centres and *(c)* local authorities have been issued by his Department, its predecessors and its agencies in each year since 1997. [204129]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities, children's centres and nurseries have received a wide range of statutory and non-statutory guidance over the last 10 years. This is intended to help front-line staff understand and implement effectively their statutory duties and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Since 2007 we have been keeping information on guidance sent to local authorities. In 2007 we issued 74 guidance documents and so far in 2008 we have issued 27 documents across the whole range of local authority duties and responsibilities including supporting better outcomes for children in care and other vulnerable groups, providing positive activities and opportunities for young people, and supporting better pupil attainment and progression. Information data on the number sent before this date were not routinely collected and would only be possible to find out at disproportionate cost.

Since 2003 we have issued the following guidance to Sure Start Children's Centres:

Guidance issued to Sure Start Children's Centres

	Number
2003	1
2004	0
2005	2
2006	2
2007	2
2008	1

The Department has not sent any guidance direct to nurseries.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210888]

Kevin Brennan: The Department purchases a broadcast news and parliamentary feed service through the Central Office of Information which includes all major news services provided by the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Sky as well as parliamentary coverage. The cost of this service is £22,000 for the current financial year. Details of such services for departmental agencies are not held centrally.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210571]

Kevin Brennan: My Department was formed on 28 June 2007. My Department offers a range of corporate skills development including formal off-the-job training, e-learning and access to a range of learning and coaching materials from our learning and development function. All these are linked to the Professional Skills for Government agenda and our business and improvement objectives.

My Department has also placed great emphasis on good people management. Provision includes line manager coaching and supporting individuals while learning on the job. This is recognised as the most effective way to learn, apply, and develop skills and knowledge.

Internal programmes are available as follows:

Leadership;

Policy Development Skills—tailored to meet the needs of my Department;

Strategic Thinking;

Analysis and Use of Evidence;

Programme and Project Management;

Contract Management;

Financial Management;

People Management; and

Drafting and Writing Skills.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many national tests a primary school pupil takes between the ages of five and 11; and if he will make a statement. [211019]

Jim Knight: There are statutory national curriculum tests at two points in primary education, at the end of key stage 1, when most pupils are aged seven, and at the end of key stage 2, when most pupils are aged 11. Teachers informally administer national tasks and tests in reading, writing and mathematics during pupils' final year in key stage 1 to inform their final teacher assessment at the end of the key stage. National tasks and tests in key stage 1 are not externally marked. At the end of key stage 2, pupils take national curriculum tests in English, mathematics and science.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will make a statement on progress in marking key stage tests in the 2007-08 academic year; and what plans he has to improve the performance of marking contractor ETS; [211020]

(2) when *(a)* the National Assessment Agency, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* he was first informed of the recent performance in relation to marking of the national curriculum tests; what remedial steps were taken; and if he will make a statement. [211021]

Jim Knight: The administration and marking of national curriculum tests, as part of the process for maintaining standards, is a function of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) that is delivered independently of Government. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) manages the marking process with ETS Europe on the QCA's behalf. The QCA is fully accountable for the delivery of national tests and reports formally to the Department through Management Boards and the supply of regular management information. The QCA/NAA have kept the Department informed about the new test delivery arrangements and the improvements to marking quality throughout the preparation for test delivery.

I take a close interest in national curriculum test delivery. My officials are in regular contact with the National Assessment Agency and keep me informed of progress. David Gee, Managing Director of the NAA, will write to the hon. member about the progress of the marking of the key stage tests and the action they are taking to support their new contractor, ETS Europe, in delivering this summer's tests. A copy of his letter has been placed in the Library.

Letter from David Gee, dated 12 June 2008:

> I have been asked to write to you in response to your parliamentary question about the progress of the marking of key stage tests and any plans for improving the performance of ETS.
>
> This year because of the deployment of technology in to the marking process, it is the first time the NAA has had specific information on marking progress available. As at 11 June, 59.7 per cent. of papers have been marked with marks securely entered online.
>
> The NAA has been collating performance data and feedback from schools, markers and exam officers throughout the current test cycle. The NAA will ensure that ETS uses this information to make improvements for future cycles and we will use contractual penalties where there has been poor performance.

Education: Children in Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on allocating personal education allowances to improve outcomes of children in care in addition to that published at the end of May 2008. [211462]

Kevin Brennan: The statutory guidance to English local authorities published on 28 May set out how they

> 'should provide personal education allowances for all of their looked after children who are at risk of not reaching the expected national standards of attainment'.

It gives a range of examples of the types of activities which a personal education allowance might be used to support and that these should be linked to a child's personal education plan. Within this framework it is for local authorities to establish their local eligibility criteria based on the guidance. There are no plans to publish additional guidance on allocating personal education allowances for children in care.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of education on average were provided to looked-after children in young offenders institutions in each of the last three years; and if he will review their educational programme. [210903]

Beverley Hughes: Data are collected on the number of looked after children in YOIs but specific education data are not collected separately. There is a statutory duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children, including those in custody. To comply with this duty, local authorities work in partnership with the YOI to ensure that individual learning needs are met and that care planning reviews continue during custody and facilitate access to education while the young person is detained. Youth Justice Board figures show that all juveniles in young offender institutions received the following average number of hours education, training and personal development activity per week:

Year	*Number of looked-after children in YOIs*	*Average hours education per week for all young people*
2004-05	110	24.50
2005-06	140	28.24
2006-07	160	26.20

We will be making proposals to improve the education of all juvenile offenders in the forthcoming Youth Crime Action Plan in the summer.

Extracurricular Activities: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children used after-school clubs in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [210755]

Jim Knight: Information is not centrally collected on the number and percentage of children who use after-school clubs, as part of the extended school programme, in West Chelmsford.

Farnley Park School Warley

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to decide on the application for Building Schools for the Future funding for the rebuilding of Farnley Park School in Warley, West Leeds; and if he will make a statement. [211179]

Jim Knight: Farnley Park School is in phase two of Leeds' Wave 1 Building Schools for the Future project. Overall funding for phases two and three was approved by the Department in February 2008. Leeds is currently investigating whether it is possible to provide a fully rebuilt school—rather than the remodelled option put forward previously—without any additional funding from the Department. Once a decision has been made we expect the council to come back to us for final approval of its plans for Farnley Park in October 2008.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is planning to take, to educate education professionals on female genital mutilation. [211066]

Jim Knight: The Government aim to raise education professionals' awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM), particularly if they work within communities where this practice may once have been adopted. Education professionals may refer to the investigating agencies in the same way they would for any type of abuse. The Professional Standards for Teachers require that anyone who is teaching, or training to teach, must be aware of current legal requirements, national policies and guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of the well-being of children; also that they know how to identify and support children and young people whose progress, development or well-being is affected by changes or difficulties in their personal circumstances, and when to refer them to colleagues for specialist support.

Local authorities may exercise their powers under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they believe that a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, FGM.

"Working Together to Safeguard Children" (April 2006), the main inter-agency guide to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, contains information about FGM. This guidance explains what is meant by FGM, makes clear that it is a criminal offence, and describes the signs that may indicate that a child is being prepared for FGM.

"Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" came into force in January 2007 and is aimed specifically at the education sector. It also contains guidance about FGM and signposts further sources of information available on the Department's Teachernet website.

First Aid: Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities are engaged in partnerships with local ambulance services and local schools to provide first aid training for school pupils; and if he will make a statement; [210680]

(2) if he will make it his policy to support partnerships between local authorities and ambulance services to provide first aid training for school pupils; and if he will make a statement; [210681]

(3) which schools in Essex provide first aid training for their pupils through a partnership between the local authority and Essex Ambulance Service; and if he will make a statement. [210683]

Jim Knight: My Department does not collect information on the number of schools providing first aid training for pupils, whether in partnership with local ambulance services or not, nor on which local authorities have arrangements with local ambulance services for such training. It is for schools to determine if and how they teach children about the principles and practice of first aid, and my Department has provided guidance to schools on this. We welcome co-operation between schools and partners such as local ambulance services, but do not prescribe with whom schools should work to deliver education on specific issues; that is for schools to decide for themselves.

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked-after children were placed in foster care with *(a)* relatives or friends, *(b)* local authority-provided foster carers and *(c)* agency-arranged foster carers in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many of each such type of foster placement was with carers living (i) inside and (ii) outside the local authority area. [210753]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the numbers and percentages of children looked after placed in foster care with *(a)* relatives or friends, *(b)* local authority-provided foster carers and *(c)* agency-arranged foster carers and (i) inside and (ii) outside the local authority area, is shown in the following table. The information is taken from table A3 of the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'. The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

and table A3 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website.

Table A3: children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2003-07[1,2,3]

	Numbers					Percentages				
Placement at 31 March	*2003*[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]	*2003*[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]
All children looked after at 31 March[1,2]	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	41,000	41,200	41,300	41,700	42,300	67	67	68	69	71
Foster placement inside Council boundary:										
With relative or friend	5,800	5,800	5,600	5,300	5,100	9	9	9	9	8
With other foster carer:										
provided by Council	21,900	21,000	20,400	20,000	20,200	36	34	33	33	34
arranged through agency	1,100	1,400	1,600	2,000	2,400	2	2	3	3	4
Foster placement outside Council boundary:										
With relative or friend	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
With other foster carer:										
provided by Council	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,400	5,300	8	8	9	9	9
arranged through agency	5,300	6,100	6,500	7,000	7,400	9	10	11	12	12
Placed for adoption[6]	3,800	3,600	3,400	3,000	2,500	6	6	6	5	4
Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19AA 2002)	[8]3,800	[9]3,600	[9]360	[10]330	[10]130	[12]6	[12]6	[12]1	[13]1	0
Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21AA 2002)	[8]—	[9]—			[10]150					0

Table A3: children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2003-07[1,2,3]

Placement at 31 March	*Numbers*[6]					*Percentages*				
	2003[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]	*2003*[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]
Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster care (under S19AA 2002)	[8]—	[9]—	[9]3,100	[11]2,700	[11]640			[12]5	[14]4	1
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)	[8]—	[9]—			[11]1,600					3
Placement with parents	6,300	5,900	5,800	5,400	5,100	10	10	9	9	9
Other placement in the community	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	2	2	3	3	3
Living independently	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	2	2	2	3	3
Residential employment	—	10	10	—	—	—	0	0	—	—
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	6,800	7,000	7,000	6,600	6,500	11	11	11	11	11
Secure unit inside Council boundary	40	30	30	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside Council boundary[7]	210	210	220	170	170	0	0	0	0	0
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations:										
inside Council boundary	3,300	3,200	3,000	3,000	2,900	5	5	5	5	5
outside Council boundary	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,300	2,300	4	4	4	4	4
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	530	910	1,100	1,100	1,100	1	1	2	2	2
Other residential settings	600	560	560	570	610	1	1	1	1	1
Residential care homes	220	200	210	230	230	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	90	80	90	80	70	0	0	0	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	170	130	150	120	150	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	110	140	110	140	160	0	0	0	0	0

Table A3: children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2003-07[1,2,3]

	Numbers					Percentages				
Placement at 31 March	*2003*[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]	*2003*[4]	*2004*[5]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[5]	*2007*[5]
Residential schools	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	2	2	2	2	2
Missing -Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	120	120	140	140	160	0	0	0	0	0
In refuge (section 51 of Children Act, 1989)	—0	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	—	—
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	40	40	20	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	80	90	120	120	120	0	0	0	0	0
Other placement	100	110	100	120	120	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

[6] Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. In 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.

[7] There are currently only 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

[8-14] These figures are braced.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies procures each week; and at what cost. [210931]

Kevin Brennan: This question can be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on newspapers as recorded on the Departments integrated financial information system comes under the general heading of Books and Newspapers. DCSF is therefore unable to identify centrally whether specific publications are or have been purchased or the individual costs involved.

The Department does not have any executive agencies.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 1174W, on pre-school education, what assessment he has made of the reasons for two-thirds of children not reaching the literacy goals of the Foundation Stage. [210416]

Beverley Hughes: All children are different and each child's development pathway and rate of progress is individual to them. This principle is fundamental to the design of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), where we make it explicit that all early years settings should deliver personalised learning, development and care. We believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life, and that to deliver that we need to continue to work with teachers and practitioners in the early years to ensure that children have the best possible experience.

To ensure that we narrow the achievement gap that currently exists between children from different backgrounds, we are investing in targeted programmes to support professionals in the early years and help them raise quality for children, supported by the framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). These programmes will focus on children's early language development and social development. In summer 2007 we allocated over £127 million for quality improvement to raise the number of staff in the private, voluntary and independent sectors who are qualified at level 3 as well as higher level qualifications, and to help them continue to develop their skills and knowledge in meeting the needs of young children.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the overall cost of increasing the free entitlement to nursery places for 12,000 disadvantaged two-year-olds. [211166]

Beverley Hughes: Pilots of free early years provision for two-year-olds benefited 13,500 disadvantaged two-year-olds between 2006 and March this year at a cost of £18 million. Over 20,000 more two-year-olds will benefit over the next three years.

Pupils: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many incidents of bullying were reported in schools in England in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [211354]

(2) which 20 schools in England had the highest number of incidents of bullying in each of the last three years. [211355]

Kevin Brennan: We are unable to provide figures for numbers of bullying incidents at school as we do not collect these data centrally.

However, tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions in the regions by reason for exclusion have been placed in the Library. This includes a category relating to bullying.

Schools: Admissions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary maintained schools use oversubscription criteria based on religious practice or adherence in their admissions arrangements, broken down by local authority. [210975]

Jim Knight: The latest figures published by the Department show that in January 2007 there were 6,255 maintained primary schools and 587 maintained secondary schools designated by the Secretary of State as having a religious character. These schools are permitted to use faith-based oversubscription criteria in order to give higher priority to children who are members of, or practise, their faith. The Department does not collect information on how many of these schools do or do not use faith-based oversubscription criteria.

Schools: Sports

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to sports facilities for schools in Wirral West constituency in the last five years, with particular reference to swimming pools; and if he will make a statement. [211265]

Kevin Brennan: Capital allocations are made by the Department on a local authority rather than a constituency basis. They are allocated to sports facilities and swimming pools in accordance with priorities decided by the local authority in its asset management plan. Accordingly, no central records are maintained of allocations in respect of sports facilities or swimming pools. Total school capital allocations from the Department to Wirral and its schools over the past five years are set out in the following table.

	£ million
	Capital allocations
2003-04	18.8
2004-05	14.4
2005-06	13.4
2006-07	18.5
2007-08	39.6

The increase in funding in 2007-08 is due to an allocation of £26.7 million for a school pathfinder project.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department is contributing to the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming. [211450]

Kevin Brennan: This Department is contributing £30 million of capital to the fund to encourage local authorities to provide free swimming, which was announced on 6 June. This capital funding will be available to improve swimming pools in schools which are available for community use. Working with the Local Government Association, the Department for Culture Media and Sport, Sport England and others we aim shortly to announce details of the allocation of this capital and the scheme more generally.

Vocational Guidance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on careers guidance for young people in *(a)* Leeds metropolitan district and *(b)* Leeds West constituency in each year since 2001. [211178]

Beverley Hughes: In April 2001, responsibility for providing careers guidance passed from the Careers Service to the Connexions Service. Connexions provides services to 13 to 19-year-olds and to people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 24. Up until 1 April 2008, Connexions funding for Leeds was allocated to the Connexions West Yorkshire Partnership, which covered Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield LEAs. From 1 April 2008, Connexions funding is being allocated directly to each local authority. The following table shows the amount of central Government funding allocated to the Connexions Service and the Careers Service in Leeds and West Yorkshire since 2001. Information on the amount spent on careers guidance is not collected centrally. However, an independent study undertaken in 2006 concluded that, on average, around 42 per cent. of a Connexions Partnership's expenditure was on information, advice and guidance. The remainder was for targeted support for young people to address specific needs.

		£ million
Year	*Connexions Service*	*Careers Service*
2001-02	—	[1]3.3
2002-03	[2]12	[1]1.4
2003-04	[2]21	—
2004-05	[2]21	—
2005-06	[2]21	—
2006-07	[2]21	—
2007-08	[2]21	—
2008-09	[3]7	—

Notes:

1. Allocated to Leeds Careers Service Company.
2. Allocated to the Connexions West Yorkshire Partnership, covering Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield LEAs.
3. Allocated to Leeds city council (the figure represents Leeds's share of a total £21 million allocated to the five local authorities in West Yorkshire).

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants were made by his Department to Westminster City Council in each of the last three years; for how much in each case; what grants will be made in 2008-09; and for how much in each case. [210009]

Kevin Brennan: The grants made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to Westminster city council in each of the last three years and for 2008-09 can be shown as follows:

Westminster council funding

Schools and children services	*Grant allocations (£)*
2005-06	
DCSF Recurrent Grants	
General Sure Start Grant[1]	3,321,130
Teachers Pay Reform Grant	2,623,646
School Standards Grant	2,286,104
Excellence in Cites (EiC) and Excellence Clusters	1,428,494
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG)	1,332,125
Targeted Behaviour Improvement Programme (EiC)	1,133,600
Leadership Incentive Grant	1,080,000
School Development Grant (DFES grant only)	1,037,905
Safeguarding Children Grant	862,742
Specialist Schools: Recurrent	562,498
London Challenge	548,293
Choice Protects	529,887
Music Services	373,500
Adoption and Special Guardianship Grant	313,591
Extended Schools	224,719
Advanced Skills Teachers	224 060
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy (100 per cent. grant)	177,975
Key Stage 3 Strategy: Central Co-ordination	173,250
Enterprise Learning	161,735
LEA Support for Workforce Remodelling	138,766
Targefed Support for Key Stage 3	132,219
Vulnerable Children	112,995
14-19 Pathfinders: 2004/05 Programme	112,000
Teenage Pregnancy, PHSE and Sure Start Plus Grant	105,000
Primary Strategy: Central Co-ordination	91,657
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	82,344
Targeted School Meals Grant	82,198
School Meals Grant	72,050
KS3 Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	68,300
Targeted Improvement Grant	63,500
Investigation and Referral Support Coordinators	53,000
Change Fund	42,497
Fast Track	34,800
Education Health Partnerships	34,463
Beacon Schools	34,000
School Travel Advisers	21,000
School Improvement Partners	10,850
Gifted and Talented	9,308
Education Health Partnerships: CPD PSHE Programme	2,250
Key Stage 3 Pilot Projects	1,000
Total Recurrent Grants	16,378,321
Children's Services Capital Grants	
General Sure Start Grant[1]	1,061,275
Integrated Children's System	134,664
Total Children's Services Capital Grants	1,195,939
2006-07	
DCSF Recurrent Grants	
Dedicated Schools Grant[2]	86,014,000
School Development Grant	7,725,546
General Sure Start Grant	4,751,317
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG)	2,853,890
School Standards Grant	2,419,058
Children's Services Grant	1,130,599
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	627,987
London Challenge	503,322
Music Services	373,500
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	358,242
Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy	296,091
Extended Schools	231,486
Secondary Strategy: Central Co-ordination	166,418
Youth Opportunity Fund	157,158
Positive Activities for Young People	135,000
Targeted School Meals Grant	128,857
Teenage Pregnancy	99,000
Primary Strategy: Central Co-ordination	91,657
Computers for Pupils: Recurrent	72,600
School Meals Grant	70,602
Sec Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	68,300
Information Sharing Index	65,016
Education Health Partnerships	51,944
School Intervention Grant	35,300
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	32,453
Choice Advisers	31,461
Parenting Support Strategy Grant	25,333
School Travel Advisers	21,000
Study Support Quality Development Programme	20,000
School Improvement Partners (SIPs)	17,100
Music at Key Stage 2	7,638
Total Recurrent Grants	108,581,875
Children's Services Capital Grants	
General Sure Start Grant	1,199,773
Integrated Children's System	136,818
Youth Capital Fund	135,929
Total Children's Services Capital Grants	1,472,520
2007-08	
DCSF Recurrent Grants	
Dedicated Schools Grant	89,186,000
School Development Grant	6,863,562
General Sure Start Grant Revenue	4,660,494

Westminster council funding

Schools and children services	*Grant allocations (£)*
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG)	3,017,074
School Standards Grant	2,768,952
Connexions	2,238,826
Children's Services Grant[3]	1,543,143
School Development Grant (LA retained element)	1,125,300
School Standards Grant (Personalisation)	1,085,546
Positive Activities for Young People	546,111
Children's Fund	394,830
Targeted Support for Primary Strategy	371,967
Music Services	363,500
Making Good Progress Pilots	331,040
London Challenge/City Challenge	307,600
Targeted Support for Secondary Strategy	297,981
Extended Schools	231,486
Family Intervention Projects	205,000
Youth Opportunity Fund	157,158
ContactPoint	156,092
Targeted School Meals Grant	125,694
Parenting in Areas delivering the Respect Programme	125,000
Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	123,878
Targeted Improvement Grant	100,000
Youth Taskforce	100,000
Teenage Pregnancy	99,000
Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	89,283
Devolved School Meals Grant	71,449
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	68,300
Education Health Partnerships	60,591
Music at Key Stage 2	58,557
Parenting Practitioner Grant	50,000
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	46,907
School Intervention Grant	35,300
Computers for Pupils: Recurrent	32,300
Choice Advisers	31,461
Additional Parenting Practitioner Grant	30,000
School Travel Advisers	21,000
Care Matters	20,000
School Improvement Partners	19,210
Parenting Support Strategy Grant	14,667
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	13,062
Transition Information Sessions: Capacity	6,008
Total Recurrent Grants	117,193,329
Children's Services Capital Grants	
General Sure Start Grant	2,435,902
Integrated Children's System	181,000
Youth Capital Fund	135,929
ICT: Mobile Technology	84,611
Total Children's Services Capital Grants	2,837,442
2008-09	
DCSF Recurrent Grants	
Dedicated Schools Grant	95,572,000
School Development Grant	6,421,949
Sure Start, Early Years and Child Care	5,905,015
School Standards Grant	2,729,486
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	2,548,845
Primary Strategy: Targeted Support	570,666
Music	423,200
Secondary Strategy: Targeted Support	281,059
Parenting Support Strategy Grant	220,000
School Lunch Grant	202,137
Extended Schools—Sustainability	197,093
Youth Opportunity Fund	157,200
ContactPoint	142,924
Family Intervention Projects	133,000
Diploma/Consortia Support Funding	120,000
Challenge and Support Funding	100,000
Parenting Practitioner Grant	50,000
Short Breaks (AHDC)	40,000
Information System for Parents and Providers	11,000
DCSF Funding allocated as part of the Area Based Grant	
Connexions	2,238,826
School Development Grant (LA retained element)	1,125,300
Positive Activities for Young people	546,111
Children's Fund	394,830
Extended Schools—Start Up	284,519
Care Matters	192,322
Secondary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	123,058
Children's'[1] Social Care Workforce	120,230
Youth Taskforce	100,000
Teenage Pregnancy	99,000
Primary National Strategy: Central Co-ordination	80,953
Secondary Behaviour and Attendance: Central Co-ordination	68,300
Education Health Partnerships	60,591
School Improvement Partners	57,400
Child Death Review Processes	47,600
School Intervention	35,300
Choice Advisers	33,208
Flexible 14 to 19 Partnerships Funding	28,462
School Travel Advisers	21,000
General Duty on Sustainable Travel To School	13,062
Child Trust Fund Top Up Grant	4,439
Extended Rights for Free Travel	2,962
Total Recurrent Grants	121,503,047
Children's Services Capital Grants	
General Sure Start Grant	1,199,773
Youth Capital Fund	135,929
ICT: Mobile Technology	84,611
Information System for Parents and Providers Capital Grant	22,234
Total Children's Services Capital Grants	1,442,567

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[1] General Sure Start Grant allocations cover the two year period 2004-06

[2] Prior to 2006-07 this funding was part of the Local Government Finance settlement managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government

[1] From 2008-09 this funding was transferred to the Formula Grant, managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government

Young Offenders: Alternatives to Prison

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what alternatives to custody there are for persons under the age of 18 years who have been convicted of a criminal offence. [211551]

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what alternatives to custody are available for persons under the age of 18 years who have been convicted of a criminal offence. [211869]

Beverley Hughes: For young people aged under 18 there are three disposals available that provide direct alternatives to custody. These are the referral order which is the main disposal for young defendants pleading guilty and convicted for the first time, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme which caters for serious and persistent young offenders and intensive fostering, both of which can be attached to community orders. Intensive fostering is being piloted by the Youth Justice Board in three areas and provides a highly intensive programme for serious and persistent young offenders whose home environment is contributing to their offending behaviour.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 introduces a new generic community sentence for young people, the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO). The YRO is designed to increase the options available to deal with young offenders in the community with effective and tailored interventions. Under the new order, intensive supervision and surveillance and intensive fostering are set out as specific alternatives to custody.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 17 June 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on training courses for staff in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [210569]

David Cairns: The staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; both Departments provide access to training and development opportunities. The office incurred the following direct expenditure:

	£
2003-04	23,483
2004-05	11,123
2005-06	13,370
2007-07	13,969
2007-08	14,041

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210584]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. The majority of opportunities are provided through the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice; but where the training need is still not available within central Government, external training courses may be considered.

The Office does not maintain a central record of all training courses attended by staff.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the potential impact of the National Air Traffic Services proposals on air space changes on the British thoroughbred breeding industry. [210936]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not for the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss airspace change proposals which are subject to consultation.

Airspace planning and regulation is the responsibility of the independent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's airspace change process. Under this process it is for airspace change sponsors, for example NATS, to develop and consult upon proposals. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, how they should be measured and who should be consulted. Informed by the consultation, the sponsor submits the proposal to the CAA's directorate of airspace policy for assessment against regulatory requirements. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process reflects the Secretary of State's directions and guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by her Department on the environmental effects of gases discharged from aircraft engines. [210896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport funds work on aviation related climate change research at Manchester metropolitan university worth about £350,000 per annum. This includes collaborative domestic and international projects on the climate science of aviation emissions and co-leading a major international workshop to assess aviation's environmental impacts.

The Government are supporting project OMEGA, a grouping of seven universities, co-ordinating UK research and dissemination of a wide range of aviation environmental issues in partnership with stakeholders.

The Department also supports a PhD studentship at Oxford university investigating the microphysics and aviation induced cirrus cloud.

Aviation: Health

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what issues have been considered by the Aviation Health Working Group since its inception in March 2001; and if she will make a statement. [206137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Aviation Health Working Group (AHWG) has considered a wide range of subjects, in varying detail, since its inception. These include: Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), cabin air quality, medical equipment on board aircraft, toilet facilities, flying when pregnant, cockpit light levels, seat pitch, cosmic radiation, aircraft filtration and fitness to fly travel advice. Notes of the relevant meetings are available on the Department for Transport website.

The AHWG, through the Department for Transport, co-funded the Wright research project into DVT with the World Health Organisation and European Commission, and has commissioned research in cabin air "fume events" which is currently under way. The House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology said in 2007:

> "in general the AHWG has been well received by the industry, unions the regulatory authorities and passenger representatives".

Biofuels

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's projections of UK biofuel consumption in millions of litres are for *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [208502]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) came into effect on 15 April 2008. In simple terms, it requires suppliers of fossil-based road transport fuels in the UK to ensure that a specified percentage of their total road transport fuel sales are made up of renewable transport fuels. The level of the RTFO is 2.5 per cent. in 2008-09, and this is due to rise to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11.

In broad terms, it is likely to equate to around 1.25 billion litres of biofuel being consumed in the year from 15 April 2008 to 14 April 2009, rising to around 1.9 billion litres in 2009-10 and around 2.5 billion litres in 2010-11.

The Renewable Fuels Agency will be publishing details of UK biofuel sales on a regular basis via its website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/.

Monthly data in respect of all UK road transport fuel sales are also available via the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the effect of global food price rises on the Government's biofuels policy. [211982]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government take very seriously concerns over rising global food prices. A large number of factors, including biofuel demand, may be contributing to the situation. The Secretary of State for Transport has asked Professor Ed Gallagher, Chairman of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA), to lead a review into the indirect effects of biofuels production, including on global commodity and food prices. It is due to report at the end of June. The review's findings will inform the development of the Government's biofuel policies and targets.

Further details are available on the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/reportsandpublications/reviewoftheindirecteffectsofbiofuels.cfm.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times she has asked (*a*) BA and (*b*) BAA for a report on security at Heathrow Terminal 5 in the last 12 months. [209267]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport works closely with industry to ensure that security measures set out on the National Aviation Security Programme are delivered. The Department monitors the level of compliance through its inspectors who undertake announced and unannounced inspections and audits, and seek corrective action from industry where appropriate. We have worked particularly intensively with BA and BAA at Heathrow both prior to and since the opening of T5.

Liverpool Street-Chelmsford Railway Line

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has had discussions with National Express on measures to reduce congestion on the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford line. [211244]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the publication of the White Paper, and as part of the intention to introduce additional capacity across the network, I can confirm that discussions have been held with National Express East Anglia (NXEA), Network Rail and the Department for Transport and that NXEA is developing the detail of its proposals for further discussion with the department.

Lorries: Licensing

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which operators of heavy goods vehicles registered outside the UK were issued with prohibition notices by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency for (*a*) mechanical defects, (*b*) drivers' hours offences and (*c*) overloading in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07, broken down by country of registration; and if she will make a statement. [211497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Vehicles: Foreigners

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many foreign-registered (*a*) cars, (*b*) vans and (*c*) heavy goods vehicles have been found unroadworthy after entering the UK in each of the last three years; [210732]

(2) how many foreign (*a*) cars, (*b*) vans and (*c*) heavy goods vehicles were prevented from entering the UK because the vehicle was not roadworthy in each of the last three years. [210733]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of foreign vehicles found by our Vehicle and Operator Services Agency to be unroadworthy were:

Financial year	*LGV*	*HGV (including trailers)*
2007-08	113	15,009
2006-07	111	13,279
2005-06	71	5,396

Note:
The figures for cars and vans are not recorded separately and the figures for Light Goods Vehicles (LGV) include cars, vans, caravans and motorbikes).

Our understanding is that the police do not keep a central record of the nationality or country of residence of offenders, and so there are no statistics available relating to foreign vehicle offences which they process.

No vehicle will have been prevented from entering the UK because it was unroadworthy. What happens—irrespective of the location—is that a dangerous vehicle is simply prohibited from further use until the defects have been rectified.

Newcastle Airport

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change in numbers of flights (*a*) to and (*b*) from Newcastle Airport by 2018 is; what percentage of flights through Newcastle Airport were domestic in the latest period for which figures are available; and what percentage she expects to be domestic in 2018. [211342]

Jim Fitzpatrick: CAA's airport statistics show that the domestic share of terminal passengers at Newcastle in 2007 was 30 per cent.

The most recent Department for Transport forecasts of passenger demand at UK airports were reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts', November 2007, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/.

Table G5 shows the central forecast of terminal passengers at Newcastle airport in 2015 and 2030, split between domestic, short-haul, and long-haul, along with outturn for 2005. Owing to the tolerance with which the iterative forecasting model works, detailed results are rounded and presented at no less than five-yearly intervals. Th[illegible] repeated in the following table.

Passenger demand at Newcastle airport, millions of passengers per annum

	Domestic	Short Haul	Long Haul	Total
2005	2	3	0	5
2015	2	5	0	7
2030	4	7	0	11

Newly Qualified Drivers Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what files are held by her Department on the Newly Qualified Drivers Bill of Session 1993-94; and if she will make a statement. [210527]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's records for the period in question do not show files specifically relating to this Private Member's Bill. Papers may be included in general policy files from that period, which could be established at only disproportionate cost.

Railways

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations govern the advertisement of rail services by train operating companies prior to the grant of regulatory approval for these services. [210926]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no specific regulations that govern the advertising of rail services by train operating companies prior to the grant of regulatory approval for their services. Such advertising is regulated by the normal law on consumer protection.

Railways: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Association of Train Operating Companies and *(b)* Transport for London in the last 12 months in relation to the re-zoning of overground train stations in Greater London; and if she will make a statement. [209916]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers and officials in the Department have regular discussions with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and Transport for London on London issues.

In the last 12 months there has been one item of correspondence with ATOC on station re-zoning. This was to agree to move three stations: Hampstead Heath from zone 3 to zone 2, Acton Central from zone 2 to zone 3 and Willesden Junction from zone 3 to the boundary of zone 2 and 3. These stations are all served by the London Overground Rail Concession.

Roads: Accidents

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were killed in car accidents in the Humberside police authority area where at least one driver involved was aged 21 years or under and (i) male and (ii) aged 21 years or under female in each year since 2000. [211846]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* male and *(b)* female fatalities in reported road accidents involving at least one (i) male and (ii) female car driver aged 21 years or under in the Humberside police force in 2000 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Number of fatalities[1]

	Male car driver aged 21 years or under		Female car driver aged 21 years or under	
	Male fatality	Female fatality	Male fatality	Female fatality
2000	5	2	0	2
2001	6	0	4	0
2002	8	0	0	0
2003	6	3	0	1
2004	2	1	[illegible]	1
2005	12	6	0	2
2006	8	2	1	3

[1] Some fatalities may be double counted in the table as an accident could involve both a male driver (aged 21 and under) and a female driver (aged 21 and under).

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if she will make a statement. [210539]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Demand for Welsh language publications is low across the Department for Transport and Executive Agencies.

Our policy is adherence to the Welsh Language scheme and to that of the Welsh Language Act 1993 and we have liaised with the Welsh Assembly Government on the delivery of publicity and advertising in media in Wales.

We also publish bilingual documents. For example the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's major documents and bulk outputs (vehicle registration documents, driving licences, vehicle excise reminders) are already supplied in bilingual or Welsh and English format to postcode addresses in Wales. This of course serves to reduce individual requests.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many left-hand drive *(a)* cars and *(b)* vans have been found abandoned in each of the last three years. [210731]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not hold data on the number of abandoned vehicles that are left hand drive.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 919W, on abandoned vehicles, if he will provide the information on abandoned vehicles, broken down by *(a)* vehicle type and *(b)* scenario as defined by the Home Office Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group. [211657]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not routinely collect detailed information about the type of vehicles that are abandoned nor the scenarios of their abandonment.

Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new entrants there were to farming in *(a)* upland and *(b)* lowland areas in each of the last five years. [210078]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of new entrants to farming is not collected.

The following table shows the number of principal farmers, spouses and business partners, split by those inside and outside the hill and upland areas which have been designated as Less Favoured Areas (LFAs), on 1 June in England in each of the last five years. These figures indicate the net change in the number of farmers.

Number of principal farmers, spouses and business partners, 1 June, England

Thousand

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Full-time					
LFA	15.4	14.9	15.0	16.4	15.6
Non-LFA	85.1	83.2	82.3	80.4	76.1
All	100.5	98.1	97.9	96.7	91.8
Part-time					
LFA	15.5	16.0	16.1	20.0	20.2
Non-LFA	103.2	110.2	108.9	107.1	107.0
All	118.7	126.2	125.0	127.1	127.1

Notes:

1. These data are collected by the June Survey of Agriculture. The results of this survey are subject to sampling error. More details of the survey are at: http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/june_eng.pdf

2. The way in which we classify holdings to Favoured Areas was improved in 2006 which has led to a break in the series. The data from 2006 on are therefore not comparable with that from earlier years.

3. The most recent detailed information on new entrants to farming was a research report 'Entry to and Exit from Farming' which was commissioned by DEFRA in 2003. This is available on the DEFRA website at: http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/entryexit/default.asp

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will investigate the case of K E Lyons and Son, Sandhurst, Gloucester and their submission of field codes to the Rural Payments Agency. [211231]

Jonathan Shaw: The case of K. E. Lyons is subject to ongoing investigations by the Rural Payments Agency.

Animal Feed

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of the re-introduction of meat and bone meal into animal feed. [210742]

Jonathan Shaw: The Food Standards Agency has funded research to assess the oral transmissibility of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) to pigs and poultry (research transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's portfolio). The European Commission has funded research on prion disease in fish.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published opinions on the residual BSE risk of meat and bone meal (The EFSA Journal (2005) 257, 1-30); on feeding fish meal to ruminants (The EFSA Journal (2007) 443, 1-26); and on feeding animal proteins to farm animals (The EFSA Journal (2007) 576, 1-41).

In December 2007 the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) considered the potential for TSE risks associated with future options for permitting processed animal protein (PAP) into livestock feed, arising from the European Commission's TSE Roadmap. The scientific papers are available on SEAC's website. SEAC is preparing a statement for publication.

There is also an EU-coordinated test development project (SAFEED-PAP) under way to develop and validate official testing methods capable of reliably identifying PAP from different species in feed samples. Such tests may provide the necessary control tools to allow consideration of future proposals to use non-ruminant-derived PAP in the feeding of non-ruminant livestock. Improved testing methods will also support EU-wide monitoring for compliance with the current controls. DEFRA is contributing to SAFEED-PAP through the funding of research at the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (SE1797) and the Central Science Laboratory (SE1798).

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans there are for his Department to deal with more than one animal disease outbreak occurring at the same time. [210823]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's generic Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases for England is reviewed and amended annually (as required under the Animal Health Act 2002) and covers arrangements for dealing with a range of exotic animal diseases. The Contingency Plan was used for the response to the simultaneous outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease, Bluetongue and Avian Influenza in 2007 and would be used if there are simultaneous outbreaks of different exotic animal diseases in the future.

The Contingency Plan is subject to ongoing revision based on the latest scientific advice, developments in policy and comments from stakeholders and operational partners together with lessons identified from disease outbreaks.

Animals: Religious Practice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations are in place to govern the treatment of animals during religious ceremonies. [210049]

Jonathan Shaw: The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 2005 (as amended) prohibit religious slaughter (slaughter without prior stunning) outside a slaughterhouse. This helps protect the welfare of animals slaughtered for consumption during Muslim or Jewish religious ceremonies, or festivals. In addition the Animal Welfare Act 2006, makes it an offence to cause an animal under the control of man unnecessary suffering. In addition, the Act places a 'duty of care' on any owner or keeper to ensure that the welfare needs of their animals are met. Meeting the needs of animals includes the provision of a suitable environment (place to live); a suitable diet; ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (if applicable); and to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

Bees: Disease Control

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Office of Environmental Policy in the US on the causes of colony collapse disorder. [211241]

Jonathan Shaw: In May, DEFRA officials met with colleagues from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exchange views on colony losses. The USDA are continuing their investigations into the causes of colony losses, which may be the result of a combination of factors, rather than a single cause. Contributory factors being considered by the USDA include varroa, poor nutrition, pesticides and secondary viruses.

Bees: Health

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his German counterpart on *(a)* the suspension of the registration of eight insecticidal seed treatment products manufactured by Bayer and *(b)* the collapse in bee populations in Baden-Wurttemberg. [211067]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no ministerial discussions on this issue. However officials in the UK Pesticides Safety Directorate are in close contact with relevant officials in Germany.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what roll-out strategy his Department has adopted for vaccination against BTV8. [210046]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with the strategy for rolling out vaccination across England, which has been developed with a core group of industry stakeholders, the protection zone is being expanded at regular intervals over the summer, enabling vaccination to take place on a progressive basis. The strategy, which splits England into priority areas, is designed to be flexible, taking into account the delivery of vaccine, take-up in the existing protection zone, epidemiological information and the location of new disease, when it recurs. The strategy is available on the DEFRA website.

So far, over nine million doses of vaccine have been made available and the protection zone has been expanded accordingly. Initial indications suggest a good response to the availability of vaccine, and the take-up of vaccine is high.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of supply of doses of the BTV-8 vaccine to Cumbria in the period up to the end of July 2008. [211025]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: In accordance with the strategy for rolling out vaccination across England, which has been developed with a core group of industry stakeholders, the protection zone will be expanded at regular intervals over the summer, enabling vaccination to take place on a progressive basis. The strategy, which splits England into priority areas, is designed to be flexible, taking into account the delivery of vaccine, take-up in the existing protection zone, epidemiological information and the location of new disease, when it recurs.

Under the order with Intervet, vaccine will arrive in regular deliveries until the end of August. Intervet is currently ahead of schedule. We cannot specify at this stage when vaccination will be rolled out into Cumbria. However, on 11 June, we announced that we are placing an order with Merial for 13 million doses, eight million for England and five million for Wales. Merial anticipate delivering vaccine in regular batches over the summer, which, alongside DEFRA's existing contract with Intervet, will ensure that sufficient doses are available for vaccination to be rolled out across England and Wales by September.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on bovine tuberculosis, in how many of the parishes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales where incidents of bovine tuberculosis took place in each year since 1997 had no cases of bovine tuberculosis been confirmed in the preceding four years. [210829]

Jonathan Shaw: Animal Health only hold data for the seven years prior to an exercise carried out in 2004. Consequently, they do not hold bovine tuberculosis data prior to 1997.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are used to calculate the value of cattle with bovine tuberculosis in England; and what information he holds on measures used in Wales. [210943]

Jonathan Shaw: In England compensation for TB affected cattle has, since February 2006, been determined primarily through table valuations. Within this system

47 cattle 'categories' are used. These categories are based on the age, gender, type (dairy or beef) and status (pedigree or non-pedigree) of animals. Table values are a true average of contemporaneous prices achieved for same category, but healthy, animals at a large number and wide range of cattle sales. If insufficient sales data are collected for a particular category, compensation is determined either by using a previously determined sales average or through individual valuation.

Responsibility for bovine TB in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly. A system of individual valuations is used in Wales.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider a trial cull of badgers in Cornwall as a measure against the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [211672]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers are considering all the evidence in relation to badgers and bovine TB in cattle before making a decision on badger culling in England. There is a great deal of complex evidence to consider and the matter is receiving our urgent attention. There is no confirmed timetable for a decision.

Carbon Emissions: Advisory Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has allocated to the green homes service for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [211018]

Joan Ruddock: Government will be providing over £100 million in the next three years to the Energy Saving Trust to develop a proactive green homes service, based on the Act on CO_2 advice line and a regional network of one stop shops. In this year alone, DEFRA is providing the Energy Saving Trust with £35.2 million, £24.5 million of which will be specifically for the Act on CO_2 advice line and the roll out of the regional advice centres. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has yet to be confirmed.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. [210490]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 854W.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were charged under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last five years. [210124]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in England and Wales, for the years 2002 to 2006 is in the following table.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Information on numbers proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data. These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales, 2002-06

	Proceeded against
2002	1,258
2003	1,323
2004	1,342
2005	1,331
2006	1,309

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Registration

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the index of exempted dogs to owner-led applications will be re-opened. [211196]

Jonathan Shaw: No. There are no plans to amend the dangerous dogs legislation to allow owner-led applications.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* original target and *(b)* actual reduction in (i) staffing numbers and (ii) associated expenditure in his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208188]

Jonathan Shaw: This Department had an obligation under the SR2004 spending settlement, with the Treasury, to reduce the numbers of staff it employs by 31 March 2008. The original target was agreed as reductions in the overall headcount of 2,400 full-time equivalents (FTEs) across DEFRA and its agencies by 31 March 2008. DEFRA used the target to reshape the Department as well as resize, and implemented an organisation design that allows DEFRA to deliver its objectives.

The majority of these reductions were to have come via scaling down of the operation of the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), which was to have contributed 1,600 posts to the overall total. However, problems with implementation of the scheme for making single payments to farmers meant that it was not possible for RPA to make these savings. A revised target was agreed, with Treasury Ministers, in June 2007 to achieve reductions, in DEFRA and the agencies, totalling 1,400 FTEs by 31 March 2008.

The reduction from the previous years staffing numbers in each year from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008 and the costs of early departures were as follows:

	Total FTE	*Reduction in staff numbers (FTE)*	*Expenditure on early departures (£ million)*
2003-04	13,442	—	—
2004-05	13,205	237	9.28
2005-06	12,983	222	7.16
2006-07	11,814	1,169	14.60
2007-08	10,640	1,174	52.85
Total		2,802	83.89

The baseline against which the Department's performance in respect of the SR04 reduction target is measured is an FTE figure, as originally agreed with HMT, of 13,650 FTEs. Machinery of government changes, definitional changes in the treatment of maternity leave for FTE reporting purposes and transfers to and from elsewhere in the public sector led to adjustment of the baseline to 12,898. For the purposes of measuring performance against the SR04 reduction target, and with the inclusion of 135 DEFRA FTEs operating within the Government offices for the regions, DEFRA's total FTE on 31 March 2008 was 10,775. Therefore, the overall reduction measured against the baseline is 2,123 FTEs.

DEFRA has achieved its reduction target through a combination of natural wastage, controls imposed on external recruitment and two voluntary early departure schemes open to applicants within the core-Department between December 2006 to July 2007 and September 2007 to January 2008 with provision set aside in the 2007-08 financial year for any payments to retirees, consequent on their departure under this scheme, which might fall in future years. The total 2004-08 early departure cost of £83.89 million (above) includes all of early departures including those in association with the earlier periods and ill health. During financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 this Department spent £14.8 million and £49 million respectively, on the funding of voluntary early departures under the two voluntary early departure schemes.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208391]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest available data on the disability status and ethnic background of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as Civil Service Statistics 2006. Information can be accessed from the following websites:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary.

The latest available data on the gender of civil servants are as at 31 December 2007 and are also published by ONS, as part of their wider Quarterly Public Sector Employment Statistics (QPSES). Information can be accessed via the following website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

Information on civil servants' sexual orientation is not currently collected or published.

In 2005 the civil service 10-point diversity plan was launched. The plan aims to make the civil service representative of the population it serves. The 10-point plan is currently being revised and DEFRA will align its strategy accordingly. DEFRA will develop an inclusive approach which will aim to increase diversity at all grades within the organisation.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207465]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows details of end-of-year performance bonuses awarded to SCS and non-SCS staff in DEFRA and its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year. For DEFRA, the data relates to staff in core-DEFRA, Animal Health, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticides Safety Directorate and Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

Department/agency	*Number of bonuses*	£
DEFRA		
SCS	127	1,160,839
Non-SCS	900	1,302,268
RPA		
SCS	5	61,488
Non-SCS	544	368,138
CEFAS		
SCS	1	11,000
Non-SCS	506	619,000
VLA		
SCS	4	33,500
Non-SCS	180	45,357
CSL		
SCS	4	41,000
Non-SCS	327	240,000

Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208381]

Jonathan Shaw: The number and proportion of employees who received an annual performance bonus in 2007 were as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
(a) Male	327	52.2
(b) Female	300	47.8
(c) From an ethnic minority	22	3.5
(d) Disabled	23	3.7
(e) Data on sexuality is not collected	—	—

The percentages shown are the proportions of the 627 staff who received bonuses in 2007. The data on bonuses includes SCS and non-SCS staff in DEFRA, Animal Health, Government Decontamination Service, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Pesticides Safety Directorate and Veterinary Medicines Agency.

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Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208514]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The core-Department uses 'Royal Mail' and 'Amtrak' as delivery companies for overseas postal services. Information prior to 2006 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 the requested information is as follows.

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Royal Mail	354,993	378,674
Amtrak	7,790.16	6,878.78

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210559]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not have a historic record of spend on training for the last five years, however DEFRA had a corporate learning and development budget of £1.2 million last year. DEFRA does not hold information centrally on what its agencies spent on training courses.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209415]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) introduced green travel plans in 1999 as part of the MAFF greening operations strategy. This strategy was revised in 2001 to reflect cross Government targets and the organisational changes which resulted from the creation of DEFRA.

It is not possible to place copies of individual green travel plans in the Library as they are site specific, subject to local review and therefore change according to each site's local circumstances and requirements. Facilities managers at each site are responsible for developing and maintaining them. This activity is checked at all sites covered under the Department's Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO14001, during internal audit of the sites.

Derelict Land

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to develop the brownfield skills strategy; and what recent discussions he, other departmental Ministers and his officials have had with the Academy for Sustainable Communities on the development of environmental decontamination skills. [209971]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The draft Brownfield Skills strategy has been developed by English Partnerships and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. It was published on 4 March 2008 following extensive research and consultation surrounding the barriers that prevent or hinder the reuse of brownfield land, including those relating to environmental decontamination. The skills strategy is an important element in the implementation of the wider National Brownfield strategy and was available for public consultation between 4 March and 10 June 2008. The responses to the consultation will now be analysed by English Partnerships and the Academy for Sustainable Communities prior to the publication of a final strategy document later this year. Communities and Local Government Ministers and officials are in regular contact with the Academy for Sustainable Communities on a range of issues including the developing Brownfield Skills strategy.

Dog Fouling

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times the maximum fine for dog-fouling offences was ordered in Wirral West constituency in each year since 2005. [211262]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not collect information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued, which carry the maximum fine possible for dog fouling offences.

Dogs: Microprocessors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has given consideration to introducing a national dog micro-chipping scheme. [210047]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government do not plan to introduce mandatory micro-chipping for all dogs. We support voluntary identification, where dog owners voluntarily undertake to have their pets permanently identified and registered on nationwide databases.

Dolphins

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dead dolphins have been found on Cornwall's beaches in each year since 1979. [211014]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government has funded the UK Cetacean Strandings Scheme since 1990. Prior to 1990 there was no such scheme and strandings were recorded by the Natural History Museum on an ad hoc basis. The following table details recorded strandings, taken from the UK Cetacean Strandings Scheme database. Data on strandings recorded before 1989 have been taken from the Cornish Wildlife Trust Database[1].

[1] We are currently awaiting data from NHM for cetacean strandings data prior to 1989 and as such the figures provided above may differ from those in the NHM database, but it is unlikely they will differ significantly.

	All cetaceans
1979	11
1980	18
1981	12
1982	22
1983	27
1984	15
1985	27
1986	20
1987	46
1988	22
1989	32
1990	26
1991	38
1992	132
1993	52
1994	45
1995	19
1996	54
1997	59
1998	67
1999	64
2000	73
2001	123
2002	184
2003	264
2004	230
2005	102
2006	175
2007	87

The increase in numbers of strandings presented in the table in part reflects the increase in reporting effort with the operation of the Strandings scheme. It would therefore not be meaningful to compare stranding numbers collected before 1990 (which were ad hoc reports) with those collected since the scheme started. A very active cetacean strandings volunteer group also operates in the south-west which has increased effort into reporting of cetacean strandings.

Domestic Animals: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will establish an investigation into the animal welfare implications of breeding techniques for domestic animals. [211197]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have no proposal to establish an investigation into breeding techniques for domestic animals.

Environment Protection: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons his Department stopped providing funding for the Atmosphere, Climate and Environment Information Programme in 2005. [207608]

Jonathan Shaw: The project was unsuccessful in obtaining Environmental Action Fund (EAF) grant for 2005-08 because it no longer fitted sufficiently within the EAF grant regime. The priority for this round was to fund Sustainable Consumption projects and DEFRA received many applications which fitted the eligibility and thematic criteria completely. The EAF was highly competitive, with 36 of the 250 applications being successful.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications there were to the *(a)* entry level and *(b)* higher level of the environmental stewardship scheme in (i) lowland areas and (ii) upland areas in each of the last five years; and how much was claimed in each of those years. [210077]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of applications received under Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship in upland and lowland areas in each year since the scheme was launched in 2005 are set out in the following table:

	ELS (lowland)	*ELS (upland)*	*HLS (lowland)*	*HLS (upland)*
2005	18,451	2,121	212	92
2006	11,217	2,256	1,534	533
2007	4,674	1,254	713	293
2008	1,499	477	291	127

The amounts of grant aid paid on agreements in the above categories in each year since payments began in 2006 are set out in the following table:

£

	ELS (lowland)	*ELS (upland)*	*HLS (lowland)*	*HLS (upland)*
2006	62,344,344	6,622,723	3,676,064	1,078,587
2007	115,401,505	13,467,940	26,544,450	7,300,621
2008	62,465,046	7,941,602	17,625,250	5,362,027

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the renewal rates were for *(a)* classic schemes and *(b)* environmental stewardship schemes in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [210079]

Jonathan Shaw: The 'classic' agri-environment schemes (notably Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas) closed to new applications in 2004, so any remaining "live" schemes will have the option of moving into Environmental Stewardship (ES) only. Natural England estimates that a minimum of 32 per cent. of expiring classic agreements were renewed directly into Environmental Stewardship between 2004 and 2007.

Environmental Stewardship was introduced in 2005. Agreements under the scheme have a duration of at least five years, so the earliest renewals will not be due until 2010. However, there were 249 'pilot' Entry Level Stewardship agreements which were set up in advance of the launch of the main scheme and which expire this year. All 249 pilot agreement holders have been invited to submit applications to renew by 15 July and Natural England is providing support and advice in the form of farmer workshops and some 1:1 site visits . We do not yet know what the final number of renewals will be.

Fishing Industries: Subsidies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what basis de minimis grants may be made to the fishing industry under EU rules; whether he plans to provide as such funding to the English fishing industry; and what the limit is of such funds that can be paid to fishing enterprises. [209724]

Jonathan Shaw: State aid can be paid to fisheries enterprises without notification to the EU Commission provided such payments fall below the "de minimis" threshold. This is currently €30,000 per enterprise over any three year period. I have no plans to provide further grants to the fishing industry beyond that already provided for under the European Fisheries Fund. For the English fishing industry this amounts to £71 million of EU and public funding.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records he holds on the level of de minimis funding given to the *(a)* French fishing industry, *(b)* Spanish fishing fleets and *(c)* fishing fleets of other EU member states. [209588]

Jonathan Shaw: Neither the Government nor the EU Commission holds records of the amount of state aid falling below the de minimis level paid by member states.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Surrey County Council on lessons learnt from the Pirbright foot and mouth disease outbreak. [210824]

Jonathan Shaw: Officers at DEFRA's Animal Health Divisional Office, in Reigate, Surrey have held several meetings with representatives of Surrey County Council Trading Standards and Emergency Planning Departments to discuss a range of contingency planning issues including lessons identified from the foot and mouth outbreak in 2007. This dialogue is part of regular and continuing liaison.

Hill Livestock Allowances

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reverse his decision to exclude disadvantaged land from the hill farm allowance scheme for 2008. [210075]

Jonathan Shaw: No. The Hill Farm Allowance will only be paid on land in the 'Severely Disadvantaged Areas' (SDA) from 2008. This decision was taken following a public consultation in 2006 on the future of uplands support, in which the majority of respondents on this issue were in favour of restricting the hill farm allowance to the SDA only. Land in the 'Disadvantaged Areas' (DA) is generally more accessible, higher grade agricultural land with more options for diversification. The model of the single payment scheme adopted in England will also, over time, tend to favour DA farmers in comparison to those in the SDA.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on his Department's funding for the hill farm allowance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [210076]

Jonathan Shaw: We receive representations on a range of issues relating to the Hill Farm Allowance, including funding, from various stakeholders. As at 10 June, the Rural Payments Agency had made payments totalling £22.9 million for 2008 Hill Farm Allowance claims.

Landfill: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on implementation of the EU Landfill Directive; [211440]

(2) what his timetable is to complete implementation of the EU Landfill Directive. [211441]

Joan Ruddock: The requirements of the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) and Council Decision (2003/33/EC) have already been fully transposed into national legislation. The measures were variously introduced in regulations in 2002, 2004 and 2005 and these provisions have been consolidated through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

Article 5.2 of the directive has been transposed through the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 and Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme (England) Regulations 2004.

I have not held any discussions with the EU since the implementation of the Landfill Directive.

Livestock: Registration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties may be imposed upon livestock owners who do not register livestock with his Department as required. [210044]

Jonathan Shaw: Cattle are the only livestock whose birth, movements and death must be individually registered by their keepers. In English law the requirement to register is set out in the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 (as amended). If a case is heard in a magistrates court the penalty for failing to comply with the provisions of these regulations is a maximum fine of £5,000 or three months in prison or both. If the case is heard in a Crown court offenders may receive a sentence of up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.

Pets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to investigate pet vending regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [210183]

Jonathan Shaw: The timetable of proposed secondary legislation to be made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, including that which regulates the selling of pet animals, was recently reviewed. While it remains our intention to review this legislation we will not be able begin the process during the current financial year.

A wide consultation on any government proposals will form part of any such review prior to any decisions being made.

Recycling

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage people to recycle more materials. [211240]

Joan Ruddock: Waste Strategy for England 2007 has a range of initiatives to encourage recycling, including the need to focus on the key waste materials where diversion from landfill could realise significant further environmental benefits, which have been identified as paper, food, glass, aluminium, wood, plastic and textiles.

In 2004, DEFRA funded the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) launched Recycle Now, with key objectives to change behaviour and encourage more of us to recycle more things, more often. Recycle Now encompasses an integrated mix of national advertising website support, and an integrated, broad-based national and regional PR campaign. 90 per cent of local authorities in England are now using the Recycle Now identity.

According to WRAP'S research, the campaign has had a significant impact and more than six out of every 10 people (61 per cent. or 25.5 million) in England were committed recyclers by 2007. The equates to 16 per cent. more people (8.5 million) being committed recyclers, compared to when the Recycle Now campaign was launched in England in September 2004, when the number of committed recyclers stood at 45 per cent.

Local authorities are responsible for the collection of recycled materials by their residents. The Government do not specify what materials local authorities must collect for recycling. However, Government initiatives such as performance indicators, local area agreements and the landfill allowance trading scheme should encourage local authorities to provide schemes that will increase recycling among their residents.

Rural Areas: Business

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to respond to the recent report by the Government's Rural Advocate on the potential for boosting the rural economy. [210825]

Jonathan Shaw: I welcome this important report which demonstrates the huge contribution made by businesses in rural areas to the national economy. The report rightly stresses the importance of recognising this contribution at all levels in Government and the private sector, and the breadth of interest in rural economic development across Government at local, regional and national levels. DEFRA will work closely with colleagues across Government to reflect upon the report and take forward action in response to its recommendations.

Shellfish: Pest Control

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which rivers in the South West and southern areas host populations of (*a*) predominantly native and (*b*) predominantly American crayfish; and which rivers host significant populations of both species. [210702]

Jonathan Shaw: Populations of native crayfish can be found in river catchments such as the Alien, Culm, Great Stour and Thames, although the situation is continually changing. Across the region American signal crayfish are abundant in river catchments such as the Somerset Tone, Hampshire Avon, Windrush and Eden.

Many native crayfish catchments also contain signal crayfish, for example the Bristol Avon, but the two species rarely co-exist for long. American signal crayfish are now more widely distributed across South West and Southern rivers compared with native species.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personnel are assigned to the British Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah. [210503]

Dr. Howells: The UK employs a broad range of staff in support of the Government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. Over 100 civilian staff in Kabul and over 40 staff in Helmand are employed from across the Government, including the Stabilisation Unit, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit. Their roles include work in governance, stabilisation, reconstruction and development, security sector reform and counter narcotics.

Burma: Democracy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with representatives of Burma's democracy movement in the last 12 months. [208464]

Meg Munn: As the Minister responsible for Burma, I have held a number of meetings with representatives of Burma's democratic movement over the last year, including Maung Maung, General Secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions Burma on 7 February; Dr. Sein Win of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma on 30 October; and Bo Kyi, Secretary of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, Burma, on 15 November 2007.

I chaired two of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's four meetings over the past year with a range of stakeholders with an interest in Burma. These have involved UK-based non-governmental organisations and representatives of the Burmese exile community, Burma's ethnic groups and the Burmese Buddhist community.

During my visit to Thailand in February, I also met representatives of Burmese exile groups there.

Craig Alden

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will send a representative of his Department to attend the parole hearing for Mr. Craig Alden in Brazil on 26 June 2008. [211284]

Meg Mu[illegible]*lding answer 17 June 2008]:* Consular staff do n[illegible]ormally attend court hearings. Consular staff are not legally trained and cannot, therefore, comment on proceedings. In certain exceptional cases our officials may consider attending a court hearing, purely as observers. Should a British detainee or a member of their legal team ask for a representative from one of our embassies or consulates to attend a parole hearing, we will consider the request.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of employees in his Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208380]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not yet determined performance-related bonus payments for the reporting year 2007-08. The following data give a breakdown for the appraisal period ending 2006-07:

2,902 (51.36 per cent. of the total number of staff who received a bonus were male);

1,984 (35.12 per cent. of the total number of staff who received a bonus were female);

406 (7.19 per cent. of the total number of staff who received a bonus were from an ethnic minority);

207 (3.66 per cent. of the total number of staff who received a bonus were disabled); and

we do not collect data on the sexual orientation of staff.

Staff declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary.

The Office of National Statistics publish data on the gender, disability status and ethnic background of civil servants in Government Departments.

Indonesia: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* observations and *(b)* recommendations of the report on Indonesia of the United Nations Committee against Torture; if he will make representations to the government of Indonesia on the Committee's observations and recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [208769]

Meg Munn: We welcome the report on Indonesia by the UN Committee against Torture's observations and recommendations on Indonesia. The Committee welcomed Indonesia's accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2006. It also welcomed the visit to Indonesia by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr Manfred Nowak, in November 2007 as well as visits by the former UN Special Representative for Human Rights Defenders and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

However, the Committee expressed concerns about abuses in a number of areas, including allegations of torture and ill-treatment of suspects in police custody, the disproportionate use of force by the security forces and the harassment of human rights defenders. It puts forward a number of recommendations and Indonesia has been asked to respond to some of these recommendations within a year. We look forward to seeing the response from the Indonesian authorities.

Our Embassy in Jakarta monitors closely the human rights situation in Indonesia and we continue to raise issues of concern with the Indonesian authorities. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Human Rights Report for 2007 sets out our concerns on the human rights situation in Indonesia, including reports of threats against human rights defenders. The full report can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/annual-reports/human-rights-report

Iran: Baha'i Faith

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the treatment of members of the Baha'i community in Iran. [211363]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 17 June 2008]*: The Government are deeply concerned by the overall human rights situation in Iran, including the treatment of the Baha'i community. The Baha'i faith is not officially recognised as a minority religion and consequently Baha'is are subject to institutional discrimination and persecution, for example restrictions on employment and education, anti-Baha'i propaganda campaigns in the state-run media and arbitrary arrests. We are particularly concerned that all the members of the informal group which co-ordinates Baha'i activities in Iran were arrested last month and we understand that further arrests of Baha'is have taken place in Esfahan and Ghaemshahr. The Government urges the Iranian government to address human rights concerns and uphold the international human rights standards that it has signed up to freely and regularly raises concerns about the treatment of the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities both bilaterally and through the EU. We have done so at least five times already this year. Most recently, following a recommendation by the UK, the EU issued a public declaration on 21 May expressing serious concern about the treatment of the Baha'is in Iran and calling for the release of the detained individuals.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on private contractors providing protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in 2007. [210498]

Dr. Howells: The information is as follows:

		£
Country	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Iraq	30,400,000	26,000,000
Afghanistan	[1]19,600,000	—

[1] For 2007.

The information in the table covers contracts put in place by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London with private security companies and reflects the contract values concerned and not the actual spend. All of these contracts cover other Government Departments, with the costs thereof being shared out accordingly.

The FCO ensures that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what private contractors provided protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in 2007. [210499]

Dr. Howells: In Iraq, Control Risks have provided mobile security and GardaWorld static security since both contracts were re-tendered in early 2006.

In Afghanistan, Armorgroup have provided both static and mobile security since the contract was re-tendered in late 2006.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ensures that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations with regard to the rocket attack on Kibbutz Nirim by the Izz al-Din and al-Qassam brigades; and if he will make a statement. [210508]

Dr. Howells: We have made clear on a number of occasions, including at the UN, that we condemn all rocket attacks into Israel and we will continue to do so. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv has condemned this specific attack.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) governments of Arab states and (ii) the Government of Israel on rocket attacks on Israel by (A) the Izz al-Din and (B) al-Qassam brigades; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [210509]

Dr. Howells: Rocket attacks against Israel, including those by this group, are a regular part of our dialogue with the Government of Israel and Arab states. This includes at ministerial level at the recent Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meetings in London on 1 May and 2 May and during my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's recent visit to the region.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* children in Israel who have been (i) killed and (ii) injured by rocket attacks from (A) Gaza and (B) the Lebanon in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [210510]

Dr. Howells: We do not keep a breakdown of the number of Israelis killed and injured by rocket attacks. However, we understand from the Israeli Government that in the last five years 14 Israelis have been killed and 638 Israelis injured by rockets fired from Gaza.

The vast majority of rockets fired from Lebanon into Israel came during the Israel/Hezbollah conflict which ran from 12 July 2006 to 14 August 2006 and, according to Israeli Government figures, resulted in 44 Israeli civilians being killed and hundreds being injured. There have been other incidents of rocket fire from Lebanon into Israel during the last five years, but we do not have detailed figures.

South Africa: Immigrants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of South Africa on attacks on immigrants and refugees in South Africa. [209302]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not to date discussed this specific issue with the Government of South Africa. However, he plans to visit the country soon and will do so then during discussion on a wide range of bilateral and other issues.

In a speech made on 5 June in South Africa, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development condemned the violence and announced a £500,000 (7.5 million Rand) funding package to provide assistance to migrants in temporary shelters affected by the recent violence. The money will be split between the South Africa based Treatment Action Campaign in the Western Cape, which will receive £200,000 and Oxfam's programme in Gauteng, which will receive £300,000.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage EU and UN targeted sanctions against Sudanese officials responsible for Sudan's non-co-operation with the International Criminal Court. [207150]

Meg Munn: The UK continues to press the Government of Sudan to comply with the requirements of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We have raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with the Government of Sudan and with UN and EU partners, including in the UN Security Council. The UK has regularly raised with partners the need to be prepared to impose further sanctions where the relevant criteria are met. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the need for Sudan to comply with the ICC in their meetings with the Sudanese Foreign Minister and other Sudanese officials on 28 April.

Zimbabwe: Financial Institutions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* representations and *(b)* requests for assistance his Department has received from the European Commission on the activities of British financial institutions in Zimbabwe. [210477]

Meg Munn: We have received no representations or requests for assistance from the European Commission on the activities of British financial institutions in Zimbabwe.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence: Teachers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) assault and (ii) sexual assault on teachers in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [211345]

Paul Goggins: The information as requested is not available. Assault or sexual assault on teachers in Northern Ireland do not constitute separate offences in legislation and court proceedings and sentencing data do not currently record the relationship between those who have been convicted of these offences and their victims.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208398]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office, as at the end of April 2008, the number of *(a)* male staff was 800 and the number of *(b)* female staff was 1,288.

Declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary. The number of staff recorded by the Northern Ireland Office as having declared that *(c)* they are from an ethnic minority is 18, and, *(d)* they have a disability is 80.

Sexual orientation is not currently monitored in the Northern Ireland Office.

Homosexuality: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what decisions were taken at the meeting held on 30 January 2008 between the organiser of the Belfast Pride parade and the Parades Commission. [207675]

Paul Goggins: I am informed that the Parades Commission undertook to continue to liaise with the parade organiser and other stakeholders.

Racial Hatred

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of racially-motivated crimes in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* police command unit and *(b)* council district. [211338]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available. Legislation for racial hatred is provided for by way of The Criminal Justice (No.2) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004. Under this Order, penalties for conviction for specified violent offences can be increased by the court if racial hatred, sexual orientation, gender or disability was an aggravating factor. Court conviction datasets do not contain background information in relation to the commission of an offence and it is therefore not possible to separate out convictions for offences with a racial motivation.

Information on the incidence and impact of hate incidents and crimes is collected and is available from PSNI statistics at

http://www.psni.police.uk/3. hate_incidents_and_crimes-4.pdf.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Merseyside

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on adult education and training in Merseyside in 2007. [211263]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for the funding of providers of post-16 further education (FE) and training.

Around £77 million was spent on adult participation programmes in Merseyside for the financial year 2007-08. This includes expenditure on FE participation, work based learning/adult apprenticeships, Train to Gain and Adult Safeguarded Learning.

Total departmental spend on adult participation spend for 2007-08 is not yet available. However as set out in the 2008-09 LSC Grant Letter (published November 2007) the comparable budget for adult participation through the LSC for 2007-08 was £2.84 billion.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208518]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department does not hold records at this level of detail. To provide accurate details of spend on sending mail overseas, broken down by delivery company, would be at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education: Admissions

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire and *(c)* North Lincolnshire entered higher education in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those were (i) mature and (ii) part-time in each of those years. [211849]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire local authorities—UK higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Cleethorpes			North East Lincolnshire			North Lincolnshire		
		Of all entrants[2]			Of all entrants[2]			Of all entrants[2]	
Academic year	*All entrants*	*Mature[3]*	*Part-time*	*All entrants*	*Mature[3]*	*Part-time*	*All entrants*	*Mature[3]*	*Part-time*
1997/98[4]	570	265	130	910	460	200	1,040	460	260
1998/99	620	290	195	1,035	535	345	1,120	515	315
1999/2000	650	315	205	1,050	540	360	1,210	600	385
2000/01	715	400	325	1,055	630	505	1,360	720	540
2001/02	620	315	225	965	520	365	1,255	665	450
2002/03	710	380	305	1,030	595	470	1,370	720	515
2003/04	670	340	255	1,065	560	410	1,185	[illegible]	500
2004/05[5]	715	405	340	1,065	615	490	1,165	580	475
2005/06	665	355	290	1,050	590	455	1,070	515	425
2006/07	655	340	280	1,015	565	435	1,215	655	600

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open University but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant mode of study.

[2] Breakdowns for mature and part-time students contain double counting (i.e. part-time students over 21 years of age will be included in both columns).

[3] Mature undergraduate students are aged 21 and over. Figures include a small number of students whose age was unknown.

[4] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.

[5] As a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by the Open University (OU) in the 2004/05 academic year, a number of students were not returned as entrants although included in the total enrolments figure. However as a result, the increase in entrants between 2004/05 and 2005/06 appears greater than in reality, particularly in respect of undergraduate entrants.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Religion: Higher Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government has taken to prevent religious extremist teaching in universities. [209713]

Bill Rammell: Academic freedom is at the heart of our higher education system. Universities have the primary responsibility for determining course content and maintaining the standards of the awards they deliver and the quality of the education they provide. The standards of degrees awarded by HEIs, and the quality of learning opportunities, are subject to independent review by the Quality Assurance Agency and external examiners.

It is important that universities are able to teach and research the wide range of theological and ideological religious views and that these views are subjected to true academic rigour and scrutiny provided that what is being taught does not break the law by espousing or advocating violent extremism.

In January of this year, we issued guidance to the higher education sector on tackling violent extremism on campus—"Promoting Good Campus Relations, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism in Universities and Higher Education Colleges". This document gave practical advice to universities on building resilience to violent extremism in their campus but also emphasised the need for free and open debate around extremist ideologies.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who will be invited to participate in the consultation process on the programmatic review at the Science and Technology

Facilities Council (STFC): which areas are being reviewed in the developing restructuring plan proposed by the STFC's executive board; and if he will make a statement. [211056]

Ian Pearson: The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) held a web-based consultation on its programmatic review in March. The consultation was open to all, and STFC received over 1,400 responses. The review covers all of STFC's programmes.

The comments were analysed by specially convened panels of experts, which then made recommendations on the way forward. These panels have sent their reports to STFC's standing Science Committees for Particle Physics, Astronomy, and Nuclear Physics, (PPAN), and for the Physical and Life Sciences (PALS). STFC Council will consider the advice of these committees on 1 July.

Students: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of first year undergraduates he expects to receive grants of *(a)* £50 or less, *(b)* £524 or less, *(c)* £998 or less and *(d)* £2,002 or less in September 2008. [210438]

Bill Rammell: The July 2007 announcement increases the means-testing threshold below which full-time students are entitled to a full maintenance grant up from £17,910 for entrants in 2007/08 to £25,000 for entrants in 2008/09. The threshold for a partial grant will increase from £38,330 for entrants in 2007/08 to £60,005 for entrants in 2008/09. These thresholds relate to household income.

This will mean that around one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and around another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant of between £50 and £2,835. Until students apply for support for 2008/09 we do not know the number of students within each of the specified bands. However, a third of new eligible students in 2008/09 is equivalent to around 100,000 students meaning we expect this number to be entitled to a full grant and the same number entitled to a partial grant.

Sustainable Development: Training

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will ring-fence a proportion of his Department's budget for the delivery of training to develop skills required by environmental industries. [209335]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's budget of £4.7 billion for adult further education and skills in 2008-09 is being used to meet the skill needs of a wide range of individuals and employers, including key sectors such as environmental industries.

The Government are taking action to assess the skills needs for a sustainable future, and a low carbon, resource intensive economy, and what further action may be needed by employers, individuals and Government. The Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) have all been asked to input to a study which DEFRA has commissioned on the skills required for a low carbon, resource efficient, economy. In parallel with that, my Department, the Learning and Skills Council, DEFRA and BERR are together working proactively with employers, SSCs and expert bodies to develop a strategic approach to skills for a sustainable future. My Department will look to find ways to support a strategic skills solution for the environmental industries through existing skills arrangements if a sufficiently compelling proposition emerges from the work being done with employers and other key stakeholders.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of his Department's budget is spent on skills training relevant to the needs of environmental industries. [209336]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's budget of £4.7 billion for adult further education and skills in 2008-09 is being used to meet the skill needs of a wide range of individuals and employers, including key sectors such as environmental industries. The bulk of the further education and skills budget is managed by the Learning and Skills Council, but the LSC's systems do not record expenditure relevant to environmental industries separately.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Asbestos: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many buildings in mid-Essex are estimated to contain dangerous levels of asbestos. [211242]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Eco-towns: Marketing

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on the promotional campaign Can Eco-towns be a Good Housing Solution *(a)* in total and *(b)* featuring Curborough, Staffordshire. [210208]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* Exact costs for the advertorials entitled: 'Can Eco-towns be a Good Housing Solution' are still to be finalised. However, we expect to spend approximately £53,000 in total for this series and I can confirm that the cost of buying media space for the Curborough advertorial was £1,250.64.

These advertorials encourage individuals in areas near potential eco-town locations to participate in the current period of consultation, which Government have a duty to support.

Home Information Packs

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* standard assessment procedure energy rating and *(b)* energy performance certificate rating was of new homes, broken down by type of landlord in the most recent period for which figures are available. [211016]

Caroline Flint: The range of SAP rating for new Part L 2006 compliant homes (minimum standards), is between 69 and 82, and new homes constructed using public funds are expected to have a SAP rating ranging between 75 and 86. These ranges fall between EPC bands B and C. The average energy performance certificate rating for new homes is band B. The next version release of the Domestic EPC Register will enable the tenure of new homes to be identified.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many reports her Department and its predecessors have commissioned on affordable rural housing since 1997. [211879]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government is responsible for housing policy in England, both rural and urban, and therefore much of the work commissioned by the Department on housing policy is relevant to all areas of the country, including rural areas.

Specifically on rural housing, in 1997 DETR commissioned a report from DTZ Pieda Consulting, published in 1998 on 'The Nature of the Demand for Housing in Rural Areas'. In July 2005, ODPM and DEFRA set up the Affordable Housing Commission to identify ways of improving access to affordable housing for people in rural areas. Most recently (December 2007) the Prime Minister asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to conduct a review on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing. The hon. Member is due to report on this next month.

Housing: Standards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was provided to Milton Keynes Unitary Authority from the Decent Homes programme in each of the last 10 years. [208627]

Mr. Iain Wright: Milton Keynes opted to deliver decent homes through a stock retention strategy using their existing funding streams.

The funding streams that the Department awards for spending on the improvement of council housing are supported borrowing and the major repairs allowance (introduced in 2001-02). Supported borrowing is where the Government pays the interest on local authority borrowing, allowing it to borrow for capital works to the stock.

Prior to 2006-2007 private sector renewal funding was included in the local authorities supported borrowing. This has since moved to a capital grant and is therefore no longer recorded in these data which explains the reduction in between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The following table shows the major repairs allowance from its introduction in 2001-02 and the supported borrowing of Milton Keynes unitary authority for each of the last ten years.

£

	Major repairs allowance	*Supported borrowing*
1997-98	n/a	2,376,000
1998-99	n/a	2,520,000
1999-2000	n/a	2,514,000
2000-01	n/a	4,843,000
2001-02	7,165,994	1,381,000
2002-03	7,261,700	1,517,000
2003-04	7,303,889	1,655,000
2004-05	7,211,639	1,941,000
2005-06	7,698,283	2,017,000
2006-07	7,550,439	832,000
2007-08	7,627,807	832,000

In addition local authorities may also borrow prudentially (receiving no Government support for the interest payments) and they can use any capital receipts they have.

Local Government

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given on the creation of single-party support groups for local government cabinet or executive members; and whether such groups are required to *(a)* hold open meetings and *(b)* routinely publish minutes and papers. [209756]

John Healey: There is no statutory basis, or any requirements, about meetings of single party support groups. My Department has not issued guidance about such meetings, although the 'New Council Constitutions: Guidance to English Local Authorities', issued following the Local Government Act 2000, encourages the executive and its members to consult with whoever they think appropriate in relation to the discharge of their functions.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the rate-free period applied to vacant commercial property; and if she will make a statement. [211256]

John Healey: The Government believe the recent reforms to empty property rates represent a fair balance between providing incentives to owners to re-let or re-develop property and providing rate relief for limited periods while they manage vacancies.

Non-domestic Rates: Smoking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of a smoking shelter outside a licensed premises is taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency when revaluing the property for business rates. [211385]

John Healey: The presence of a smoking shelter would be taken into account in valuing a licensed premises, insofar as it affects the rental value of the property.

Rates and Rating: Prisons

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether prisons are classified as a domestic, composite or non-domestic hereditaments for rating purposes. [211389]

John Healey: Prisons are classified as composite hereditaments for rating and council tax purposes.

Regional Planning and Development

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the implementation of recommendations arising from the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration to be completed. [210615]

John Healey: The Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration was completed and published in July 2007. In March 2008, my Department, with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, published 'Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration'. This sets out and seeks views by 20 June 2008 on proposals for implementing certain conclusions of the Review. The Government intend to bring forward legislation at the earliest opportunity.

Rented Housing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how many private tenants there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210968]

Mr. Iain Wright: Statistics on the number of private tenants at constituency or local authority level are not available on a regular basis. The lowest geographical level for which regular data are available is at the regional level.

The 2001 Census figure for the number of private renting households in the Jarrow constituency is published by the House of Commons Library at the following link:

http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2004/rp04-001b.xls

Then select the "tenure" worksheet.

The 2001 Census figure for the number of private renting households in South Tyneside is published by the Office for National Statistics on their Neighbourhood Statistics website at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276798&c=South+Tyneside&d=13&e=16&g=369089&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1213607101557&enc=1&dsFamilyId=163

Estimates from the Survey of English Housing for the number of private tenancies in the north east and England are given in the following table. Due to small annual sample sizes, these estimates are based on a two year rolling sample.

Number of private tenancies

Thousand

Period[1]	*North East*	*England*
1997-98 and 1998-99	86	2,250
1998-99 and 1999-2000	94	2,273
1999-2000 and 2000-01	88	2,243
2000-01 and 2001-02	73	2,161
2001-02 and 2002-03	81	2,174
2002-03 and 2003-04	90	2,294
2003-04 and 2004-05	101	2,446
2004-05 and 2005-06	111	2,601
2005-06 and 2006-07	98	2,734

[1] Due to small sample sizes, a two-year rolling sample is used.
Source: Survey of English Housing.

Rented Housing: Fees and Charges

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions are imposed on annual increases in service charges charged to domestic tenants by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [211353]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are free to decide their own levels of service charge increases, as service charges are a matter for the local authority in its capacity as landlord and are dictated by local conditions.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been distributed by the Thames Gateway initiative *(a)* in total and *(b)* to Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years; and to what uses the sums distributed to Castle Point have been put. [210398]

Caroline Flint: The capital amounts distributed by ODPM/CLG to the Thames Gateway area in total and to the Castle Point constituency area in each of the last five years are shown in the table. The accountable body for Canvey Island Development Framework and waterfront enhancements was the East of England Development Agency and for the Canvey Wick Biodiversity Reserve Planning, the Land Restoration Trust.

	Thames Gateway (£ million)	*Castle Point (£)*	*Castle Point projects*
2007-08	157.6	653,000	Canvey Island development framework and waterfront enhancements
		35,000	Canvey Wick biodiversity reserve planning
2006-07	115. 8	106,000	Canvey Island development framework and waterfront enhancements
2005-06	145.8	390,000	Canvey Island development framework and waterfront enhancements

	Thames Gateway (£ million)	*Castle Point (£)*	*Castle Point projects*
2004-05	136.1	107,000	Canvey Island development framework and waterfront enhancements
2003-04	38.4	—	

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the document retention policy of the Commission is regarding original donation returns; what that policy was before 2004; and whether the Commission has destroyed any such returns.[1] [211392]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it retains all documents which it considers to be required for its current or future business needs. In July 2005 the Commission ordered the destruction of original hard copy donation returns from political parties from 2001 to 2003. The Commission does not plan to destroy any other donation returns in the future. The Commission has retained all original hard copy donation returns from political parties from 2004 onwards and original hard copies of donation returns from regulated donees from 2001 onwards.

Information on donation returns since 2001 is published on the Commission's register of donations, which is available on its website at

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/registers.cfm.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many donations to regulated donees were notified to the Commission in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [211528]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not keep this information in the form requested. However, it has been notified of 133 donations accepted by regulated donees in 2003 and 151 donations accepted by regulated donees in 2004.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Class Sizes: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average *(a)* pupil to teacher and *(b)* pupil to adult ratio at key stage 3 was in secondary schools in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire local education authority and (iii) North Lincolnshire local education authority in the most recent period for which figures are available; [211841]

(2) what the average *(a)* pupil to teacher and *(b)* pupil to adult ratio at key stage 1 was in maintained primary schools in each year since 1997 in (i) Cleethorpes constituency, (ii) North East Lincolnshire local education authority and (iii) North Lincolnshire local education authority. [211843]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Primary and secondary within school pupil teacher ratios in local authority maintained schools are readily available. Figures for Cleethorpes constituency, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire local authorities and England for each year requested are provided in the following table:

Primary and secondary within school pupil teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained schools, Cleethorpes constituency, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire LA's and England, 1997 to 2007

	Cleethorpes constituency	*North East Lincolnshire LA*	*North Lincolnshire LA*	*England*
Secondary				
2007	17.1	17.4	17.0	16.5
Primary				
1997	25.2	25.0	24.6	23.4
1998	25.6	25.9	25.1	23.7
1999	24.6	24.9	24.0	23.5
2000	24.3	23.9	24.2	23.3
2001	23.8	23.4	23.9	22.9
2002	23.3	23.2	23.7	22.5
2003	22.9	22.9	24.2	22.6
2004	23.0	23.2	23.5	22.7
2005	23.5	22.5	24.0	22.5
2006	22.9	22.2	23.7	22.0
2007	22.2	21.9	23.9	21.8

[1] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on role in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

Source:

School Census

Education: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will instruct the Learning and Skills Council to reconsider the need for a transitional year for the new post-16 funding arrangements. [211402]

Jim Knight: We are continuing to work closely with all our partners and stakeholders to manage the transition to the new post-18 funding arrangements. As set out in the White Paper, "Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver", as we develop our implementation and delivery plans, a critical part of this process will be ensuring that the Learning and Skills Council and local authorities work closely together in the years before the formal transfer occurs. We are confident that these transitional arrangements will help to enable local authorities to effectively develop their capability and capacity to discharge their new role.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to respond to the letter of 30 April 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on student finance applications. [209964]

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1. *[Official Report, 3 July 2008, Vol. 478, c. 8MC.]*

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to his letter. However, the original letter, addressed to another Department was not received in my Department. A copy of the letter has now been obtained, and a reply to the hon. Member was sent on 16 June.

Schools: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Isle of Wight Council on levels of funding for the Primary Capital Programme beyond 2011. [211680]

Jim Knight: None. All local authorities have been advised that, subject to future Government spending decisions, the national programme is expected to continue until 2022-23 at a baseline of £500 million per annum. Decisions have yet to be taken on allocations for individual local authorities beyond 2010-11. However, we have advised LAs to plan on the assumption that there will be no increase.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many offences involving *(a)* firearms, *(b)* knives and *(c)* other offensive weapons were recorded on school premises in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [210379]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally. Offences that have occurred on school property cannot be separately identified on Home Office datasets for recorded crime.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Energy: Consumption

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total energy consumption in Scotland was in the week-long period beginning *(a)* 14 March, *(b)* 21 March, *(c)* 31 March and *(d)* 6 April 2008; and what estimate he has made of the cost of energy consumed in each week. [210748]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* Statistics of energy consumption are not compiled on a weekly basis. Total energy consumption statistics are available on a monthly basis but only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Fuel Poverty

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to paragraph 4.34 of Budget 2008, on helping vulnerable households heat their homes, whether the Government intend to bring forward proposals to introduce minimum standards for social tariffs. [209569]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have secured individual voluntary agreements with the six largest energy suppliers to increase their collective spend on social programmes to at least £150 million a year by 2010-11. This voluntary approach provides for a wide range of help to vulnerable households, including social tariffs, energy efficiency measures and bill rebates.

Ofgem is leading the process to determine the parameters for what can be included under this additional spend and is currently consulting on a draft framework, including qualifying criteria for social tariffs. The Government therefore have no plans at present to bring forward further proposals on social tariffs.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on fuel poverty; what steps he is taking in response; and what consideration he has given to increasing assistance for super-insulation of homes. [210297]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* I receive a number of representations on fuel poverty from Members of Parliament, members of the public, and a range of stakeholder organisations with an interest in fuel poverty.

Since 2000 the Government have spent around £20 billion on fuel poverty programmes and benefits. Most recently my Department has secured the individual agreement of the six major energy suppliers to increase their collective spend on social programmes for low income households from £50 million to £150 million year by 2010-11.

The Government also announced a one-off additional payment to the winter fuel payment for this coming winter of £50 for the over 60s and £100 for the over 80s. And the recent Ofgem-led Fuel Poverty summit resulted in a package of measures that will help vulnerable households access the best available tariffs. Our research has shown that switching suppliers and payment method can bring savings of up to £200.

The Government's Warm Front programme provides a range of insulation measures and energy efficiency advice to households in receipt of certain benefits. Between 2000-08 the Government will have committed £1.6 billion to Warm Front providing support to 1.7 million households.

The carbon emissions reduction target places an obligation on energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to householders, including insulation. Under this scheme it is expected that £1.5 billion will be directed to low income and elderly consumers over the three years of the programme.

Progress is also being made in improving the insulation of social housing under the Decent Homes standard. The Decent Homes standard is a minimum standard below which homes should not fall in England, and includes thermal comfort. The Government expect 95 per cent. of social homes to meet the Decent Homes standard by 2010.

We have no plans at present to extend the range of energy efficiency programmes.

Microgeneration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* initiatives have been launched and *(b)* documents have been published on micro-generation by his Department in the last month. [209970]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government announced on 30 May 2008 that £3 million of the low carbon buildings programme would be directed towards a pilot fuel poverty stream to demonstrate the potential of microgeneration technologies to fuel poor communities. The pilot projects will be undertaken in Wales, East Anglia, north-east England and Yorkshire and Humberside, and will also be supported by the Welsh Assembly and the local regional development agencies. The delivery bodies for the projects will also offer a range of other activities to assist fuel poor households.

I have also spoken at a number of events including at Building Research Establishment to publicise the low carbon buildings programme and award the first certificate to a product under the microgeneration certification scheme and at the Micropower Council annual conference.

The following document on microgeneration was published by the Department on 2 June 2008:

08/912—'The growth potential for microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland'.

Report on findings from research investigating microgeneration technologies and consumer behaviour. Looks at the impact of various policy options on demand, models future uptake of microgeneration to 2050 and considers the likely impact of targets on uptake.

No longer available in hard copy—web version only

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

2 June 2008.

Nuclear Power Stations

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the level of outage was for each nuclear power station in the last five years; and from what source additional generating capacity has been drawn to compensate for each such outage. [[illegible]0684]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not publish data on levels of output from individual nuclear stations. Data on recent historic nuclear generation unavailability are published in the National Grid Winter consultation report which is available at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/4B475A5C-D41A-4039-9089-30B282276577/26306/WinterOutlookConsultationReportJune2.hpdf.

BERR publishes a table of fuel used in electricity generation by major producers, which shows the contribution to overall generation from all sources including nuclear plant on an annual basis going back to 1995. This is available on the BERR website at

http://berr[illegible]v.uk/energy/statistics/source/electricity/page18527.html.

Oil: Licensing

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria are used by his Department to decide whether an appropriate assessment is necessary for proposed oil and gas licensing. [209911]

Malcolm Wicks: Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora) requires that any plan or project (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a special area of conservation but is likely to have a significant effect on such an area be subject to an appropriate assessment.

Where the above test is satisfied, the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (as amended) set out the matters in respect of which I must carry out an appropriate assessment e.g. before granting a Petroleum Act licence, a seismic survey consent, a consent issued under a Petroloum Act licence, etc..

I am also guided in the selection of plans or projects for assessment by information and guidance such as that provided by the European Commission; "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites" and that provided by statutory conservation agencies such as the JNCC.

Oil: Reserves

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the size is of the UK's strategic oil reserves. [211095]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: The UK does not have strategic oil reserves. As a member of the European Union and of the International Energy Agency, the UK is required to hold emergency oil stocks equivalent to 67.5 days' national consumption for release in the event of disruption of international supplies. It meets these obligations by directing oil companies to hold stocks under powers derived from section 6 of the Energy Act 1976.

At the end of March 2008 the following stocks were available to the United Kingdom:

	Million tonnes
(i) Crude oil and refinery process oils:	7.1
ii) Petroleum products	6.7

These were equivalent to 78 days' national consumption.

World War II: Medals

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records he holds to determine who is eligible for a Bevin Boys badge. [210230]

Malcolm Wicks: No employment records are available for those employed under the Bevin Boys scheme. Applications for the Bevin Boys veterans badge are processed using information supplied by the applicants and cross referencing this against key features of the Bevin Boys scheme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animals Act 1986

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will add abstracts for projected licences granted under the Animals Act 1986 prior to 2005 to its website. [210048]

Meg Hillier: We have no plans to do so. We believe that it is a better use of resources to focus our energies on ensuring that as many abstracts are posted for newly granted licences as possible. Abstracts are provided voluntarily by licensees and there are currently over 1,300 posted on the Home Office website.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 193-4W, on antisocial behaviour orders: Devon, how many of the antisocial behaviour orders issued in Devon and Cornwall in 2006 were breached; and how many offenders received *(a)* one and *(b)* two warnings in lieu of an antisocial behaviour order. [211550]

Mr. Coaker: 79 of the persons who had been issued with an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) at a court located in the Devon and Cornwall criminal justice system (CJS) area between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 have been proven in court to have breached their order at least once at some point before 31 December 2006. It is important to note, however, that an ASBO can be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. Therefore not all the 79 persons would necessarily have breached their ASBO in Devon and Cornwall.

Data on warnings are not collected centrally.

Cannabis: Young People

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Vietnamese children have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences related to cannabis cultivation in the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [204741]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 May 2008]:* Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice. Court proceedings data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, which include information on defendants proceeded against and convicted, do not identify the nationality of the defendants.

Community Policing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing in the creation of safer communities. [209492]

Mr. Coaker: Neighbourhood policing provides high visibility, reassurance policing in all communities, establishing local priorities with local people by engaging with the community on the issues which matter most to them.

We know that a neighbourhood policing approach works. The Home Office evaluation of the National Reassurance Policing Programme (NRPP)—the precursor to neighbourhood policing which was trialled in 16 sites in England between 2003 and 2005—demonstrated that crime and antisocial behaviour were positively affected by a neighbourhood policing approach and that public confidence increased fivefold.

There are now around 3,600 dedicated teams in place across England and Wales consisting of over 13,500 sergeants and constables and 16,000 police community support officers. For the first time ever, every household across the country now has a dedicated police team to solve local problems and has a name and contact number for their local team.

The Home Office is monitoring and evaluating these new teams across England and Wales, through a three-year research programme, due to be completed in autumn 2009.

Early indications show the positive impact of neighbourhood policing on crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as feelings of safety and confidence in the police. The Home Office also continues to assess police performance, including the impact of neighbourhood policing, through the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework, while inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary also provide a qualitative assessment of neighbourhood policing delivery.

Crimes of Violence: Taxis

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes in which the victim's occupation or the victim type was given as taxi driver were carried out in England in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211351]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities have established a strategy on tackling the practice of female genital mutilation. [211048]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* We do not monitor whether local authorities have established strategies on tackling the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). However, the Home Office is currently sponsoring a series of regional seminars/road shows, designed to engage with a wide range of professionals and communities to raise awareness of the problem of honour based violence, which includes tackling the practice of FGM. The aim of these forums is to enable local partnerships to develop strategies to identify and protect vulnerable victims for honour based violence.

As part of our commitment to address FGM we are engaging with a number of third sector agencies that work within the support and research sector of this field.

We will soon set up a national Black and Minority Ethnic working group of Government, statutory agencies and the third sector that will promote a partnership approach to a range of issues including FGM. It is envisaged that the group will identify and develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* schools and *(b)* other organisations on the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority; and if she will make a statement. [210607]

Meg Hillier: A wide range of consultation and information events have been held with employers, volunteer organisers and other stakeholders to explain the role of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the new vetting scheme. Government guidance for schools on the role of the ISA is provided on the 'Every Child Matters' pages of the DCSF website, which also directs readers to further guidance on the ISA's own website.

Further meetings will be held and guidance provided, to schools and other employment sectors, well in advance of the ISA's go-live date of October 2009.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to provide for the security of data held by the Independent Safeguarding Authority; and if she will make a statement. [210608]

Meg Hillier: The Independent Safeguarding Authority will operate from secure premises in Darlington, County Durham. A stand-alone IT system has been developed for the handling and storage of data, including the new barred lists, at Confidential level under the criteria of the Government Protective Marking scheme. Data transfers will take place across secure networks or will utilise approved encryption.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the performance of the Independent Safeguarding Authority in vetting overseas workers who work with children. [210609]

Meg Hillier: The Independent Safeguarding Authority does not go-live in respect of new applications until October 2009. At that time it will take into account all information which is available in respect of applications from overseas workers. My Department is looking into how access to such information may be improved and will consider comments in this area from Sir Ian Magee's independent review of criminality information.

Offensive Weapons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effect of increasing maximum sentences for knife crime on the number of offences committed. [208866]

Mr. Coaker: The maximum sentence for possession of a knife or sharp instrument in public was increased from two to four years as part of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and came into force in April 2007. The Government considered that it was necessary to make sure that there was a clear message about the seriousness with which knife possession should be considered, reinforced by the announcement on 5 June that all those aged 16 and over caught in possession of a knife should expect to be charged.

Figures for having an article with a blade or point in a public place show that in 2006, 6232 people were convicted, an increase of 5 per cent. on the previous year. Data relating to 2007-08, covering the period following the increase in the maximum sentence, are not yet available.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for offences of (i) possessing a knife in a public place and (ii) grievous bodily harm with a knife in (A) Lancashire and (B) England in each of the last five years. [210909]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of possessing a knife in a public place in Lancashire and England from 2002 to 2006 are in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not hold details about the circumstances of the offences. It is therefore not possible to supply data for grievous bodily harm offences involving knives.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for possessing a knife in a public place[1], in Lancashire and England, 2002 to 2006[2, 3]

	Lancashire	England
2002		
Proceeded against	127	6,611
Found guilty	98	5,082
2003		
Proceeded against	159	6,624
Found guilty	136	5,165
2004		
Proceeded against	188	6,987
Found guilty	161	5,612
2005		
Proceeded against	182	6,988
Found guilty	150	5,727
2006		
Proceeded against	169	7,268
Found guilty	144	6,018

[1] Includes the following offences;
Having an article with blade or point in public place—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.
Having an article with blade or point on school premises—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Offensive Weapons: Arrests

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made in West Chelmsford constituency for knife crimes in each of the last 10 years. [211238]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests data collection held by the Ministry of Justice is based on aggregated data reported by the 43 police force areas in England and Wales. From these data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups or to provide data at constituency level.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she takes account of the charges made for passports in other EU member states in determining the charge made for a UK passport. [208966]

Meg Hillier: The UK passport fee is set at the level necessary to cover all the costs of passport issuing in the UK and the costs of providing emergency consular assistance to British passport holders travelling abroad. The calculation of costs on which the fee is based is checked and agreed by HM Treasury. Fees charged by other countries are monitored and the information is published on the Identity and Passport Service website but does not play any part in the calculation of UK fees.

Passports: Fingerprints

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the fingerprints of people applying for passports will be checked against the police fingerprint database; and if she will make a statement. [202763]

Meg Hillier: At present, fingerprints are not recorded as part of the passport application process, although we intend to record fingerprint biometrics in future, as part of the development of the national identity scheme.

When fingerprint biometric passports are introduced, we do not plan to check fingerprints recorded during the application process against police fingerprint records as a matter of routine. However, in cases which cause particular concern (in the case of suspected fraud, for example), we may contact the police for information to support the examination of such applications and, depending on the case, this may involve conducting a search against police fingerprint records.

Police: Horses

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mounted police officers and *(b)* dog handlers were employed by each police force in each of the last five years. [208829]

Jacqui Smith: The available data are given in the following tables.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function[2] is "dogs" for 2002-03 to 2006-07

Functions	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	47	45	45	45	45
Bedfordshire	19	18	17	18	17
Cambridgeshire	19	18	18	19	19
Cheshire	24	23	22	21	25
Cleveland	18	19	19	17	21
Cumbria	20	21	19	20	20
Derbyshire	24	24	24	24	24
Devon and Cornwall	48	47	48	49	46
Dorset	22	20	21	22	23
Durham	26	27	24	25	24
Dyfed Powys	19	19	20	19	20
Essex	46	45	48	48	48
Gloucestershire	16	14	17	17	17
Greater Manchester	116	118	90	96	87
Gwent	16	15	15	16	16
Hampshire	28	35	36	36	33
Hertfordshire	27	26	26	29	28
Humberside	28	28	27	27	27
Kent	48	n/a	45	47	43
Lancashire	41	35	36	30	29
Leicestershire	n/a	25	24	22	23
Lincolnshire	22	22	22	19	17
London, City of	18	17	18	18	18
Merseyside	31	32	35	45	44
Metropolitan Police	205	237	241	251	251
Norfolk	19	22	20	20	20
Northamptonshire	14	13	13	13	12
Northumbria	54	60	61	60	61
North Wales	12	12	15	11	12
North Yorkshire	23	23	21	21	20
Nottinghamshire	30	32	33	33	34
South Wales	43	40	43	39	42
South Yorkshire	52	50	44	48	48
Staffordshire	27	28	27	25	26
Suffolk	14	14	13	13	13
Surrey	34	36	33	34	35
Sussex	49	48	51	47	48
Thames Valley	43	40	39	40	41
Warwickshire	15	15	16	16	14
West Mercia	35	37	38	37	37
West Midlands	69	69	67	69	66

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function[2] is "dogs" for 2002-03 to 2006-07

Functions	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
West Yorkshire	62	68	61	58	56
Wiltshire	15	15	17	18	18

n/a = Not available.

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables. Dog handlers including those employed for general policing, drugs and explosive detection duties. Including staff who are predominately employed within dogs sections other that dog handlers. Including those officers in supporting roles.

Note:

Overall force totals including those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The data in the function breakdown are from unpublished sources and therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose primary function[2] is "mounted" for 2002-03 to 2006-07

Functions	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	10	14	11	11	10
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	10	10	9	10	10
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	40	47	49	45	32
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	7	7	7	6	7
Kent	0	n/a	0	0	0
Lancashire	16	15	15	15	16
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	9	12	12	10	11
Merseyside	24	27	25	25	27
Metropolitan Police	120	123	124	145	141
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	8	7	9	9	11
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	8	8	8	7	7
South Wales	8	9	9	10	9
South Yorkshire	16	n/a	16	16	16
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	9	9	8	9	10
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	26	26	26	26	23
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0

n/a = Not available.

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables. Staff who predominately conduct mounted patrol duties, including supervisors. Including those officers in supporting roles.

Note:

Overall force totals including those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The data in the function breakdown are from unpublished sources and therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost was of maintaining *(a)* the mounted police section and *(b)* the police dogs unit in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [208830]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

This is an operational matter for each police authority and chief officer.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police horses and *(b)* police dogs were injured in the line of duty in each of the last five years; [208831]

(2) how many *(a)* horses and *(b)* dogs were used by each police force in each of the last five years. [208832]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration was given to the rules regarding the local election purdah period prior to taking the decision to make the announcement on police numbers. [201827]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 April 2008]*: The Home Office attaches great importance to adherence to the rules governing elections, and gave this issue careful consideration in this case.

Research Development and Statistics Directorate

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in her Department's Research Development and Statistics Directorate in each year since 1997; and what the Directorate's budget was in each of those years. [200357]

Meg Hillier: The available information on budgets and numbers of staff in the social research and statistics teams since 1997 is shown in the following table. Please note that since 2004 the Research and Statistics teams have been embedded within each Home Office business area rather than within a single Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.

	Research development and statistics teams -staff in post	*Social science budgets in the Home Office (£ million)*
1997-98	239	—
1998-99	[1]—	6.3
1999-2000	[1]—	5.8
2000-01	356	28.3
2001-02	398	29.4
2002-03	386	40.1
2003-04	447	32.2
2004-05	422	32.1
2005-06	399	38.2
2006-07	276	25.2
2007-08	207	15.8

[1] Not separately available.

Notes:

1. The source of the staff in post figures are form 1997-98 and 2003-4 Home Office Annual Reports, from 2004-5-2006-7 returns to the Office of National Statistics.
2. 2006-7 figures exclude staff and resources transferring to DCLG. 2007-08 figures exclude staff and resources that transferred to Ministry of Justice in May 2007.
3. 1997-98 to 2005-6 budget figures for are Social Science and Statistics budget estimates— for 2006-7 the figures are budget outturn for embedded RDS teams.

Road Traffic Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in England were convicted for *(a)* motoring offences that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211357]

Mr. Coaker: Available information held by the Ministry of Justice, from 2004 to 2006 (latest available), is provided in Tables A and B. The data in Table A relate to offences where a death is an integral part of the offence, not to other offences in which a death might have occurred. The circumstances of such offences are not recorded.

2007 data should be available by the end of 2008.

Table A: Findings of guilt at all courts for motoring offences of causing death[1], by Government office region, England, 2004-06

Number of offences

Government office region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	24	28	10
North West	66	53	64
Yorkshire and the Humber	47	66	56
East Midlands	49	40	31
West Midlands	45	40	35
East	30	32	32
London	30	37	34
South East	36	38	65
South West	27	44	20
Total England	354	378	347
Wales	13	20	21
Total England and Wales	367	398	368

[1] Offences under Road Traffic Act section 1 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 and Criminal Justice Act 1993 section 67. Section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as added by the Road Traffic Act 1991 section 3 and amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1993 s. 67. Then Act 1968 section 12A as added by the Aggravated Vehicle taking Act 1992 section 1.

Note: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Findings of guilt at all courts for motoring offences of careless driving[1], by Government office region, England, 2004-06

Number of offences

Government office region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	1,309	1,272	1,362
North West	4,833	4,606	4,258
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,314	2,337	2,043
East Midlands	2,142	1,903	1,759
West Midlands	3,823	3,872	3,702
East	3,260	3,872	3,822
London	4,785	4,299	3,851
South East	2,996	3,257	3,249
South West	2,796	2,784	2,629
Total England	28,258	28,202	26,675
Wales	2,242	1,903	1,756
Total England and Wales	30,500	30,705	28,431

[1] Offences under sections 3,12 (1), 26 (2), 33 (3), 34 and 168 of the Road Traffic Act 1988; sections 59 (1) (a) (3) (a) and (6) of the Police Reform Act 2002. Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, RR. 19,104-107 and 109 and 110.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Road Traffic Offences: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for road traffic offences of (i) failing to stop and failing to report an accident and (ii) driving without due care and attention there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [210906]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: Available information held by the Ministry of Justice, from 2002 to 2006 which is the latest available, is provided in tables A and B.

2007 data should be available by the end of 2008.

Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for accident offences[1], within Lancashire police force area, 2002-06

	Number of offences	
	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2002	578	328
2003	704	404
2004	625	377
2005	570	369
2006	506	334

[1] Offences under s. 170 (4) and (7) of the Road Traffic Act 1988

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for driving without due care and attention[1], within Lancashire police force area, 2002-06

	Number of offences	
	Number of prosecutions	Number of convictions
2002	1,144	756
2003	1,074	718
2004	830	559
2005	670	493
2006	704	549

[1] Offences under s. 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department was represented at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Summer Conference on 3 June 2008. [210051]

Meg Hillier: The RSPCA conference on 3 June 2008 looked at the challenges of managing dogs within our communities. Lord Rooker, Minister of State for Animal Welfare at DEFRA, whose portfolio includes responsibility for the subject matter, spoke at the conference. The Home Office was not represented.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of its time and resources the Serious Organised Crime Agency spends on tackling *(a)* organised immigration crime and *(b)* human trafficking. [208312]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency's Annual Report for 2007-08, notes that 12 per cent. of its operational effort during the year had been directed against organised immigration crime including human trafficking. This relates to the overall operational work of the agency, and different operations require different amounts of time, personnel, international and national partnership working to achieve the outcome, so it does not directly translate into financial or other resource terms.

Stalking

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the consistency of police forces' practice in investigating complaints of *(a)* stalking and *(b)* domestic violence; and if she will make a statement. [211171]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to tackling the incidence of stalking and harassment. We have been working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to develop a national risk-based assessment form to ensure that officers are able to better predict levels of risk to victims.

In 2004, ACPO issued guidance to all its forces outlining how officers should investigate and deal with cases of harassment, taking into account the links with domestic violence. This guidance is currently being updated to incorporate developments in legislation around domestic violence, the protection of vulnerable people and the victim's code of practice and is expected to be reissued to forces in the autumn.

Compliance with the guidance forms part of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary force inspection process.

Stop and Search

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches were conducted in *(a)* the Metropolitan Police area and *(b)* other police areas under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since it came into force. [206698]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics on the number of stop-searches conducted under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 are published in two reports on a yearly basis. The Ministry of Justice publications Report Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice, 2006 and the Statistical Bulletin: Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, 2005-06 (both the latest available) contain statistics on the number of stops and searches under the Terrorism Act and resultant arrests. The latest version of these publications can be located at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/arrestsfornotibleoffences.htm

(Table P3, page 27)

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

(Table 4.6, page 34)

Publications for previous years can be located at the Home Office Statistical Bulletins Archive located here:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

Terrorism: Death

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths of *(a)* civilians and *(b)* members of the security services and armed forces have been caused by terrorist activity in the UK in each year since 1978. [196822]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The term 'security services' is interpreted as the police and intelligence agencies. We are not prepared to release the information requested with regard to the intelligence agencies due to the sensitive nature of their work.

The following table details the numbers of deaths recorded as being caused by terrorist activity in the UK since 1978. The table is broken down by year and into the categories of civilians and police and armed forces.

Deaths due to terrorist activity

	England and Wales		*Northern Ireland*		*Scotland*		*Total*		
	Civilians	*Police and armed forces*	*Civilians*	*Police and armed forces*	*Civilians*	*Police and armed forces*	*Civilians*	*Police and armed forces*	*Total*
1978	4	—	50	31	—	—	54	31	85
1979	1	—	51	62	—	—	52	62	114
1980	10	—	50	26	—	—	60	26	86
1981	2	1	57	44	—	—	60	44	104
1982	—	11	57	40	—	—	68	40	108
1983	3	3	44	33	—	—	47	36	83
1984	8	—	36	28	—	—	44	28	72
1985	1	—	26	29	—	—	27	29	56
1986	2	—	37	24	—	—	39	24	63
1987	6	—	68	27	—	—	74	27	101
1988	1	1	55	39	[1]270	—	326	40	366
1989	—	11	39	23	—	—	39	34	73
1990	2	1	49	27	—	—	51	28	79
1991	3	—	75	19	—	—	78	19	97
1992	4	1	76	9	—	—	80	10	90
1993	3	—	70	14	—	—	73	14	87
1994	—	—	56	6	—	—	56	6	62
1995	—	—	8	1	—	—	8	1	9
1996	3	—	14	1	—	—	17	1	18
1997	—	—	17	5	—	—	17	5	22
1998	—	—	53	2	—	—	53	2	55
1999	3	—	7	—	—	—	10	—	10
2000	—	—	18	—	—	—	18	—	18
2001	—	—	17	—	—	—	17	—	17
2002	—	—	13	—	—	—	13	—	13
2003	—	1	11	—	—	—	11	—	11
2004	—	—	5	—	—	—	5	—	5
2005	[1]52	—	5	—	—	—	61	—	61
2006	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
2007	—	—	3	—	1	—	4	—	4
Total	112	30	1070	490	271	—	1465	507	1973

[1] *Notes:*
1988—the 270 civilian deaths in Scotland in this year were caused by the Lockerbie bombing.
2005—the 52 civilian deaths in the UK in this year excludes the four suicide bombers who perpetrated the 7 July London bombings.

Weddings

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been given by the General Register Office to local authority registrars on the taking of photographs of the wedding register by members of the public. [211916]

Meg Hillier: There is nothing in marriage legislation that refers specifically to the subject of photography at the wedding and arrangements are at the discretion of the local superintendent registrar.

Following articles in the media, the Registrar General has written to registration officers in the following terms:

The Registrar General believes that all registration officers will share his view that our objective should be to ensure that the marriage ceremony is a joyous occasion for the couple involved and that they should be able to properly record it without undermining the solemnity or dignity of the occasion. He understands that it is the usual practice to discourage still photography during the ceremony but allow ample opportunity after the register has been completed. He accepts that this avoids any disruption of the proceedings but is also aware that there is nothing in law to prevent photographs being taken at any stage in the proceedings.

However, he is clear that this is a decision for superintendent registrars to make locally. He also accepts that the usual practice of allowing the couple to pose for photographs with a blank register or register page protects the register from any inadvertent damage without detracting from the traditional posed photograph. This practice also conceals the information in the register itself. Although this is not subject to data protection laws, it is a common-sense way of avoiding any identification of the couple or third parties, particularly where the image may be published on social networking websites.

The Registrar General is confident that all registration officers will also continue to ensure that all couples have a memorable and happy day with full opportunity to have the photographs they wish to provide a lasting memento.

Young Offenders: Females

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed by females aged between 10 and 17 years in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [206873]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of crimes committed by females aged between 10 and 17 years in Suffolk is not available from the British Crime Survey (BCS) or police recorded crime data.

The BCS does ask victims of crime about the characteristics of their offenders but the sample size is not sufficient to provide reliable estimates for Suffolk. The number of crimes recorded by the police is available for Suffolk but information on the age or sex of the offender is not available centrally.

Information on the number of offences committed by females aged 10-17 that led to a pre-court disposal (reprimand or final warning) or a court disposal in Suffolk in each of the last five years is available and shown in the following table.

As such, these are not a measure of crime or of the number of young offenders. They represent the workload of youth offending teams and not necessarily the level or variation in crime or offending.

Number of offences resulting in a disposal in Suffolk in which the offender was a female aged 10-17

	Number
2003	941
2004	932
2005	872
2006	969
2007	790

Source:
Youth Justice Board

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of *(a)* 5.56, *(b)* 7.62 and *(c)* .5 calibre ammunition were fired in each of the last six months by British troops in Afghanistan. [209613]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between December 2007 and May 2008 inclusive, British troops in Afghanistan used some 980,000 rounds of 5.56 mm calibre, 930,000 rounds of 7.62 mm calibre, and 186,000 rounds of 12.72 mm calibre, also known as .5, 0.50, or 50 calibre.

This is broken down for use by month in the following table, rounded to the nearest thousand:

	Number of rounds of ammunition used		
Month	*5.56mm*	*7.62mm*	*12.72mm*
December	83,000	78,000	22,000
January	72,000	65,000	6,000
February	92,000	87,000	15,000
March	400,000	460,000	62,000
April	290,000	210,000	73,000
May	48,000	27,000	8,000

These data includes rounds used in training, as well as operational usage.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 662W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, for what reasons his Department changed supplier for civilian air transport for the International Security Assistance Force in southern Afghanistan from the Mesopotamia Group to Skylink. [210642]

Des Browne: The civilian logistic aviation support contract for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan is managed by NATO. It was a NATO decision to change contractors.

Aircraft Carriers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the *(a)* design-phase and *(b)* subsequent phases of the aircraft carrier construction project of the decision of the French government not to order a second aircraft carrier. [211589]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The French Government has yet to announce a decision on the future of a second aircraft carrier. In the event of France deciding not to proceed with construction of a second aircraft carrier, the design phase, subsequent phases of construction and the in-service dates of the UK's aircraft carriers remain unaffected.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what co-operation exists between the Government and the government of France on the Super Carrier project. [211455]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Our co-operation with France on the future aircraft carrier project is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006. This provides for sharing of a common baseline design with the French PA2 carrier project and allows us to explore potential savings, to both countries, through shared procurement and support of equipment.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent forecast dates are for *(a)* beginning of construction, *(b)* completion of construction, *(c)* completion of sea trials and *(d)* coming into service of the two new aircraft carriers. [211499]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Construction of the new aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, is currently scheduled to commence during 2008 and 2009 and to complete during 2014 and 2015 respectively. Completion of sea trials and entry into service, for each of the ships, will occur in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

Amphibious Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards providing eight amphibious ships as referred to in the Strategic Defence Review 1998. [211501]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The modernisation of the Royal Navy's amphibious fleet was completed in 2007 with the introduction into service of the Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary) RFA Lyme Bay. The improved capability of the new amphibious ships compared to their predecessors mean that there are no plans to expand the fleet beyond the seven ships presently in service.

Armed Forces: Aviation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are circumstances in which service personnel are required to pay *(a)* in part and *(b)* in entirety for an air ticket to return to the UK following the end of a tour of active service abroad. [211482]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD fully funds the cost both of travel from and return to the UK for service personnel posted abroad on active duty (including on operations). In addition, personnel serving abroad are entitled to claim Get You Home (Overseas) which assists with the cost of one leave return journey to the UK per assignment year from their overseas duty station.

Armed Forces: Parcels

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British Forces Post Office numbers do not receive free parcels; what criteria determine who *(a)* does and *(b)* does not qualify for free parcels; and if he will make a statement. [211269]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no free parcel (items 2-30 kg) service to British Forces Post Office locations, only a free packet (items up to 2 kg) service. The following British Forces Post Office numbers do not currently receive free packets:

2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 28, 30, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 44, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, 105, 109, 113, 115, 140, 150, 200, 204, 205, 208, 210, 212, 214, 222, 229, 231, 241, 243, 248, 251, 252, 255, 256, 261, 270, 271, 272, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 285, 288, 289, 292, 300, 305, 309, 318, 324, 327, 334, 335, 338, 345, 346, 350, 357, 358, 361, 362, 363, 366, 369, 375, 376, 377, 378, 380, 381, 382, 384, 386, 387, 389, 390, 391, 395, 396, 398, 399, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 412, 418, 419, 420, 421, 423, 426, 430, 431, 434, 435, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 446, 447, 448, 449, 452, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 482, 485, 487, 488, 489, 490, 492, 494, 495, 537, 555, 559, 567, 589, 599, 615, 622, 628, 651, 655, 670, 677, 700, 747, 777, 785, 786, 794, 801, 802, 805, 806, 808, 825, 1000, 1001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Free packet post is only available to those personnel serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres. All other personnel receive letters, packets and parcels at a subsidised rate which means that the sender only pays the UK domestic inland postage charge regardless of where in the world an item is sent. A six week free service is available in the pre-Christmas period for many locations that do not have an enduring free service, such as deployed ships, the Falkland Islands and Diego Garcia.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that all British troops serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan receive their entitlement of free family parcels; and if he will make a statement. [211270]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Mail posted from anywhere within the United Kingdom typically takes three to seven days to reach Iraq and Afghanistan. All British Forces Post Office addressed mail is delivered several times daily to the British Forces Post Office depot at Northolt for sorting and onward transmission to its final destination. All mail for Iraq and Afghanistan is bagged, loaded daily onto road transport and driven to Royal Air Force Brize Norton or Royal Air Force Lyneham for loading on to military or charter flights to the operational theatres.

The British Forces Post Offices in the theatres seek to clear the mail daily. This is usually achieved in Iraq due to the collocation of the majority of British forces in the Basra base. However, in Afghanistan the onward transmission of mail can be delayed because mail for units deployed to forward positions has to be transported by helicopter for the final leg of delivery. Although all steps are taken to ensure timely delivery, mail transported by helicopter comes behind ammunition, medical supplies and food in order of priority.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage increase in *(a)* the rate of inflation and *(b)* service pay in (i) real and (ii) nominal terms was between 2007 and 2008. [211505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage increase in the consumer prices index for the first quarter of 2008 compared with the first quarter of 2007 was 2.4 per cent.

In February 2008, the Government accepted in full the Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendations of a nominal pay rise of 2.6 per cent. for all servicemen and women.

This increase was implemented from 1 April 2008 and will be paid throughout the 2008-09 financial year. As such, the calculation of real increase should be based on financial years. The inflation rate for 2008-09 is not yet known and hence it is not yet possible to calculate the real increase between the financial years 2008-09 and 2007-08.

AWE Burghfield: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff there were at AWE Burghfield in each year since 2003; and what the reasons were for changes in the levels of staffing. [211503]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by AWE plc at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Burghfield is shown in the following table. The figures are taken as at the end of March in each year.

	Manpower level
2003	308
2004	286
2005	295
2006	315
2007	341
2008	344

The increase in staffing levels over the past years is consistent with the Government's commitment to take forward a programme of investment in sustaining key skills and facilities at AWE. The investment will ensure that the existing Trident stockpile can be maintained throughout its intended in-service life and that it remains reliable and safe.

Berths

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 66-7W, on nuclear submarines, what X and Z berths are available to the Royal Navy; when the X and Z berths outside HMNB Devonport and HMNB Clyde referred to in the answer of 14 November 2000 to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead, *Official Report*, column 575W, on berths, lost their designated status; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [211913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The designation of nuclear powered warship berths was amended in 2006 to ensure clarity in responsibility and consistency of definition across all nuclear powered warship berths. Berths outside of HMNB Devonport and HMNB Clyde base ports are now termed operational berths.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has initiated disciplinary action against any individual as a consequence of their involvement in the commissioning of the eight Chinook helicopters which remain unairworthy. [210713]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: A full inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Chinook procurement was held in 2004. It found that the failures were systemic and no individuals were to blame. Lessons have been learnt and procedures have been put in place to avoid a similar occurrence.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times officials in his Department met representatives of the National Audit Office in each year since 1997 to discuss the value for money of his Department's major projects. [211483]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD officials meet regularly with representatives of the National Audit Office to discuss a variety of subjects, including value for money. The specific nature of individual meetings is not held centrally.

Departmental Responsibilities

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's projects gained main gate approval in 2007-08. [210663]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209414]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has not published a green transport plan. In a Department of MOD's size and complexity, travel is something most tangibly dealt with at site level. Two MOD agencies have published green transport plans: The Hydrographic Office in April 2008 and The Meteorological Office in 2007. I shall place copies of both plans in the Library of the House.

France: Military Alliances

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark the 10th anniversary of the UK-France agreement reached at St Malo in 1998. [211397]

Des Browne: None.

Gibraltar Services Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Permanent Joint Headquarters appraisals of *(a)* the proposed transfer of police functions of the Gibraltar Service Police (GSP), *(b)* the functions and jurisdiction of the GSP on land currently owned and managed by his Department and *(c)* the future of GSP assets will take place; if he will place in the Library a copy of each appraisal on completion; and if he will make a statement. [211162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work is continuing on the future of the Gibraltar Service Police. Part of this process will involve discussions between HQ British Forces Gibraltar and the Government of Gibraltar on future policing options. Once these discussions have concluded, there will be a full appraisal of the options for the future of the GSP before any final decision is taken. I will write to the hon. Member once a final decision has been taken.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have been deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan over the last 12 months with full-strength bearing; and how many troops were deployed. [182606]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* All units deploy at the required strength for the tasks they are asked to fulfil during their operational tour.

Information on the number of troops from each unit which deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 12 months is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Substantive answer from Des Browne to Andrew Murrison:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 29 January 2008 (Official Report, column 186W), about which units have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 12 months with full strength bearing and how many troops were deployed.

As my answer indicated, all units will deploy at the strength required for the tasks that they are asked to fulfil during their operational tour. The table, attached at ANNEX A, lists the main formed units which deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan from November 2006 to April 2008 and the total troop numbers which these units deployed. The equivalent information is not held for subunits, so the totals will not match the overall numbers which deployed on each roulement. As you know, it is not unusual for a roulement to be configured from elements of a number of units, each of which are contributing a small number of troops in support of the main formation. All units that are tasked to deploy on each operational tour are listed in the relevant announcement laid before Parliament.

You may also be interested in the answers given to the Hon Member for Newark, Patrick Mercer, on 7 January 2008 (Official Report, column 50W) and 16 January 2008 (Official Report, column 1247W), about peace establishment numbers for a number or regiments. I enclose copies of the Hansard extracts for ease of reference.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Annex A: Formed unit strengths deployed on recent operational tours

Telic deployments: Telic 9—November 2006 to May 2007

Unit	*Unit strength*
2nd Bn Lancashire Regt	455
Queens Royal Lancers	320
1st Bn Yorkshire Regt	550
2nd Bn The Rifles	703
40 Regiment Royal Artillery	298
3rd Bn Mercian Regiment	509

Telic deployments: Telic 10—June 2007 to November 2007

Unit	*Unit strength*
2nd Bn Royal Welsh Regiment	522
1st Bn Irish Guards	409
4th Bn The Rifles	587
1st Regt Royal Horse Artillery	388
Kings Royal Hussars	445

Herrick deployments: Herrick 5—October 2006 to April 2007

Unit	*Total unit strength*
42 and 45 Commando Royal Marines	2,067

Herrick deployments: Herrick 6—April 2007 to October 2007

Unit	*Unit strength*
1st Bn Royal Anglian Regt	583
2nd Bn Mercian Regiment	466
The Light Dragoons	190

Herrick deployments: Herrick 7—October 2007 to April 2008

Unit	*Unit strength*
40 Commando Royal Marines	822
Household Cavalry Regt	190
1st Bn Royal Gurkha Rifles	585
1st Bn Coldstream Guards	500
4 Regt Royal Artillery	372

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which vehicles British service personnel were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of hostile action in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each month since operations started; and if he will make a statement. [210136]

Des Browne: I am withholding the details requested as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to reduce the number of Future Lynx procured from AgustaWestland; and if he will make a statement. [209595]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We currently have no plans to reduce the number of Future Lynx procured.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reduce the amount spent on the Future Lynx capability. [209596]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We currently have no plans to reduce the overall expenditure on Future Lynx.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the decision was taken not to procure the *(a)* NH90 helicopter, *(b)* Bell 407 helicopter, *(c)* EC635 helicopter, *(d)* AB139 helicopter and *(e)* UH-60 helicopter to meet the capability to be met by the Future Lynx; [209598]

(2) on what date the business case for the Future Lynx was approved by his Department's Investment Approvals Board; [209599]

(3) if he will initiate an investigation into the procedures used in reaching the decision to award the Future Lynx contract. [209607]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The correct departmental procedures were followed to reach the decision to procure the new Future Lynx helicopter. I do not therefore see a need to initiate any investigation into the procedures followed in arriving at this decision. The final decision was taken by MOD Ministers, following agreement from Her Majesty's Treasury, on 31 May 2006 on the basis of advice and recommendations from the MOD Investment Approvals Board.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the Future Lynx Business Plan was completed by November 2005. [209600]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The final Future Lynx Main Gate Business Case was submitted to the Department's Investment Approvals Board on 5 December 2005.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the letter of 31 July 2007 from Lord Drayson to the hon. Member for Harwich, (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of Future Lynx to meet the surface combatant maritime rotorcraft capability at a lower cost than alternatives; [209602]

(2) what assessment he has made of the ability of Future Lynx to meet the battlefield reconnaissance helicopter capability at an equivalent cost to alternatives. [209603]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence follows a detailed approvals process for all major equipment procurement decisions. For all such decisions a range of factors are considered including acquisition cost, the ability of the equipment to meet our capability requirements, technical and programme risk and coherence with the defence industrial strategy. The approvals process is designed to ensure all these factors are considered and procurement decisions are not based on any single factor. In the case of the surface combatant maritime rotorcraft and battlefield reconnaissance helicopter capabilities, following consideration of the range of factors, Future Lynx was considered to be the best solution to meet our requirements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reasons his Department did not conduct a competitive process before awarding AgustaWestland the contract to build the Future Lynx to meet the battlefield reconnaissance helicopter requirement; [209604]

(2) what consideration was given to procuring an off-the-shelf helicopter under a competitive process to meet the battlefield reconnaissance helicopter requirement; and what estimate he has made of when helicopters would have been available to the armed forces under such a procurement process. [209605]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An assessment was made by the Department in 2001 which concluded that the Future Lynx aircraft likely offered the best through-life approach to the delivery of the Army's battlefield light utility helicopter (BLUH) and Royal Navy's surface combatant maritime rotorcraft (SCMR) requirements and a sole source assessment phase was launched. We continued to benchmark the Future Lynx approach against other opportunities, including within the analysis that underpinned the future rotorcraft capability programme during 2004-05, where the Army's requirement was described as the battlefield reconnaissance helicopter (BRH).

The analysis concluded that the delivery of the BRH and the SCMR requirements through a single helicopter type (Future Lynx) provided the best combination of through-life military capability, time to deliver into service, cost and risk. As such, we decided not to launch a competition.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account was taken in the Department's procurement process of the conclusion of the long-term partnering agreement between his Department and AgustaWestland in March 2005, with particular reference to bidders for fulfilment of the Future Lynx contract. [209608]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Heads of Agreement signed with Agusta Westland in March 2005 and announced via a written ministerial statement on 24 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 83WS, committed the Department to exploring the possibility of partnering. The same statement confirmed that the potential award of a Future Lynx contract was subject to continuing negotiations to agree acceptable contract conditions and prices within clearly defined parameters. The subsequent decision to proceed with Future Lynx was taken as this represented the best through-life approach; its contribution to the sustainment of critical UK skills was a secondary consideration.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Predator unmanned aerial vehicles the armed forces have; and how many have been *(a)* used in recent operations and *(b)* shot down. [209653]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has procured three Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as Predator B. Reaper operations began in Afghanistan in October 2007 and capability continues to be built up. None have been shot down, but one was lost in April 2008 as the result of a forced landing. A replacement will be delivered in due course. We do not comment on the exact numbers of platforms in use on operations at any particular time.

Warships: Guided Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons systems have been removed from ships in the Royal Navy because *(a)* of the need to make expenditure reductions, *(b)* they were no longer operationally needed and *(c)* for other reasons in the last 12 months. [210673]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of agreed resource priorities, a decision was made in 2007 to remove sea dart weapon systems from two Type 42 Destroyers. Royal Navy Ships continue to be armed with weapon system capabilities required to meet their tasking.

I am withholding further details as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff are employed by each *(a)* Regional Arts Council, *(b)* Regional Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(c)* Regional Cultural Consortium. [209403]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* Figures for the number of staff employed by the bodies in question, as provided by those bodies, are set out as follows. These represent the total number of individuals employed, not the number of full-time equivalents.

Regional arts councils

	Number
East	47
East Midlands	65
London	107
North East	56
North West	70
South East	61
South West	56
West Midlands	48
Yorkshire	52

Note:
These figures include people working with Creative Partnerships.

Regional museums, libraries and archives councils

	Number
MLA East England	12
MLA East Midlands	19
MLA London	21
MLA North East	10
MLA North West	9
MLA South East	15
MLA South West	15
MLA West Midlands	18
MLA Yorkshire	12

Note:
The nine MLA regional agencies are independent bodies and employ their own staff, funded by core funding from MLA and other external project funding. The staffing figures have been provided by the regional agencies and are correct as at June 2008. They include both permanent and project staff on short-term contracts and represent a reduction of 30 per cent. from September 2007.

Regional cultural consortiums

	Number
Culture East Midlands	5
Culture North East	5
Culture North West	9
Culture South East	5
Culture South West	5
Culture West Midlands	7
Living East	4
Yorkshire Culture	8

Note:
Some posts are co-funded by partners and these posts are included in the figures.

Culture: Education

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the £69 million funding allocated for the Five Hour Offer between 2008 and 2011 will come from *(a)* the National Lottery and *(b)* HM Treasury. [211457]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Sport England has advised that the entire £69 million investment for 2008-11 to support the five-hour sports offer for children and young people is Exchequer funding. (This funding includes £4.5 million from the DCSF).

Culture: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* VisitBritain, *(d)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(e)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(f)* the National Lottery Commission, *(g)* Sport England, *(h)* UK Sport, *(i)* Arts Council England and *(j)* the UK Film Council on advertising appointments in each of the last five years. [210236]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1010-14W, on departmental manpower, what functions were carried out by the full-time equivalent employee in the Trade Union division. [210259]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This employee, working in the Corporate Services Directorate, is given 100 per cent. facility time, with management agreement, to undertake his joint role as chair of the departmental trade union side (DTUS) and chair of the DCMS branch of the public and commercial services union (PCS). Main duties attached to the post include

leading for the DTUS in formal meetings/consultations/negotiations with senior management on issues relating to pay and terms and conditions of employment;

ensuring the PCS Branch is run in accordance with its constitution and union rules;

ensuring that PCS members are kept informed and consulted on relevant local and national union matters;

representing members with personal work issues;

Vice President and committee member of the Culture, Media and Sport Occupational Association.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed in his private office. [210409]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* There are six members of staff working in my private office.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 817-19W, on departmental NDPBs, with which public bodies his

Department had finalised funding agreements as of 1 June 2008; for what period funding has been agreed; and how much funding has been agreed in each case. [210196]

Andy Burnham: The information you request is listed in the following table:

Name of NDPB	*Period of funding agreement*	*2008-09 (£)*	*2009-10 (£)*	*2010-11 (£)*
British Library	2008-11	106,904,000	109,464,000	112,094,000
Culture North East	2008-09	215,000	—	—
Culture South West	2008-09	215,000	—	—
Gambling Commission	2008-11	500,000	500,000	500,000
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	2008-11	13,971,000	12,971,000	11,471,000
Public Lending Right	2008-11	7,432,000	7,582,000	7,682,000
Yorkshire Culture	2008-09	215,000	—	—

In addition, since 1 June 2008 the following NDPBs have had their funding agreements finalised and signed.

Name of NDPB	*Period of funding agreement*	*2008-09 (£)*	*2009-10 (£)*	*2010-11 (£)*
British Museum	2008-11	50,875,000	52,028,000	54,222,000
Culture North West	2008-09	215,000	—	—
Football Licensing Authority	2008-11	1,321,000	1,261,000	1,261,000
Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust	2008-11	1,276,000	1,181,000	1,211,000
Imperial War Museum	2008-11	23,588,000	24,163,000	24,752,000
Living East	2008-09	215,000	—	—
Museum of Science and Industry	2008-11	39,158,000	40,608,000	41,583,000
Sir John Soane's Museum	2008-11	1,276,000	1,181,000	1,211,000
Victoria and Albert Museum	2008-11	44,234,000	44,761,000	45,902,000

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208512]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 2001 the Department has spent the following on overseas mail.

£

Supplier	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Addison Lee	—	—	—	—	726.39	—	—	—
Anderson Young	—	—	—	75.21	547.18	—	—	—
Courier Systems	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,760.64
City Sprint	325.95	—	43.82	—	107.50	460.50	1,216.70	—
Countdown International	89.00	417.50	—	—	424.68	—	—	—
Nightspeed	162.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Mail	—	—	375.00	2,019.26	1,669.33	1,667.39	992.27	501.99
Parcel Force	—	—	—	—	—	213.24	74.04	—
Transglobal Express Ltd	—	—	—	—	—	—	250.00	—
Total	576.95	417.50	418.82	2,094.47	3,475.08	2,341.13	2,533.01	2,262.63

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the Department's performance against Public Service Agreement target 3 in the 2002 Spending Review during the period 2002 to 2008. [209406]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 June 2008]:* The DCMS Annual Report for 2008 was published in May 2008 and gives details of our latest assessment The full report can be seen on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/5123.aspx

A further assessment will be made in the autumn, when data for 2006 has been validated.

English Sports Council: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what means he expects the £20 million administrative savings expected of Sport England over the next three years to be achieved. [211459]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The reduction in Sport England's operating costs of £20 million over the next three years will be achieved by a range of measures, which include the centralisation of grant making; the creation of a single, streamlined grant application process; a tighter focus in regional activities; savings to information and communication technology services; and improvements in procurement and financial management.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's definition is of *(a)* direct delivery costs and *(b)* other operating costs, as used in paragraph 108 of the Sport England strategy for 2008 to 2011. [211460]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Operating costs are defined as all the costs of the organisation, including its wider activities, other than the costs of grant awards.

(a) Sport England advises that direct delivery costs are a subset of operating costs which help deliver their outcomes and objectives. For example, to support grant applicants, the direct delivery costs include meetings, publicity and guidance materials which improve the quality and range of applications. The direct delivery costs also include funding for research used by the sector as a whole (for example the Active People Survey and Sport England's contribution to the Taking Part Survey).

(b) Other operating costs support the delivery of Sport England's wider activities, for example

statutory and non-statutory planning function;
technical advice service; and
national and regional advocacy.

Sport England emphasises that the percentages shown in the table in paragraph 108 of the Sport England strategy document are illustrative.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* within the sector for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210459]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department will review our approach to age equality in the light of any proposals arising from the Government's proposals for the Equality Bill, outlined in the consultation "A Framework for Fairness". Our departmental guidance on equality impact assessment currently includes age equality as an issue for consideration in policy development.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the conclusions of the triennial review of stakes and prizes for gaming machines will be published; and if he will make a statement. [212090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A triennial review of stakes and prizes grew up by custom and practice under the previous gambling legislation, and has no statutory basis. The Government last increased stake and prize levels for certain categories of gaming machine in October 2006, earlier than planned and at the industry's request. We are committed to a further review no later than 2009.

Sportsmatch: Grants

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role Sportsmatch will have in the £10 million Small Grants Scheme under the Sport England strategy for 2008 to 2011. [211461]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Sport England has signalled a continuing role—within its £10 million funding for small grants—for the highly successful Sportsmatch programme.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public swimming pools have closed in *(a)* the Greater London area and *(b)* England since 1997. [210521]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that information on local authority pool openings and closures across Greater London and England was not collected centrally prior to 2004, when the Active Places database of sports facilities across England was established. The most recent information from Sport England (November 2007) indicates the number of pools (not sites) opened and closed in each year since 2004.

	Opened	*Closed*
Greater London		
2004	6	0
2005	4	6
2006	7	0
2007	6	3
England		
2004	17	5
2005	18	32
2006	20	23
2007	19	9

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Lottery are contributing to the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to offer free swimming. [211373]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is making a contribution to the capital fund of £9.75 million in 2008-09, £9.75 million in 2009-10 and £10 million in 2010-11.

As for the National Lottery contribution, as part of our work over the summer to design the delivery and implementation arrangements of the free swimming offer, we will be discussing with Sport England its contribution, including the potential of making swimming a growth sport, and how the free swimming initiative can have an impact on increasing sports participation.

Television: Licensing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* fines were issued and *(b)* prosecutions were brought for the offence of installing or using a television receiver to watch or record television shows without a valid licence in each London borough in each of the last five years. [210281]

Andy Burnham: The administration and enforcement of the television licensing system are the responsibility of the BBC, which operates independently of Government. The day to day administration and enforcement of the licence fee regulations are undertaken by TV Licensing, which acts as agent for the corporation. Fines are issued and collected by the courts, and information on the number of offenders fined in London for offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts, the majority of which relate to TV licence evasion, for 2002-06 is set out in the following table. This information has been provided by the Ministry of Justice and is not available by London borough.

	Number sentenced	*Number fined*
2002	10,878	10,267
2003	7,218	7,066
2004	11,471	11,352
2005	17,018	16,837
2006	15,068	14,902

Television: Sight-Impaired People

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to change the specification of Freeview boxes under the Help Scheme to provide audio description and talking menus to help the visually impaired. [209725]

Andy Burnham: The Department set up the Emerging Technologies Group to keep the core receiver requirements of the scheme equipment under review and to recommend, where necessary, that new technologies be incorporated in this equipment. They will consider the case for talking menus for equipment supplied by the Help Scheme. Any recommendations must then be approved by me and by the BBC as the operators of the scheme. Audio description is already a core receiver requirement.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to encourage the development of digital teletext on digital platforms to assist the visually impaired. [209728]

Andy Burnham: We welcome any developments to assist the visually impaired in this area. Blind and partially sighted people can currently gain access to analogue terrestrial teletext services through 'Talking Teletext' equipment that translates written teletext into audible speech. The existing equipment is not suitable for receiving digital teletext services, however, as a different technology is used to broadcast those services. Portset, the manufacturer of 'Talking Teletext', has recently introduced a specially designed unit that, among other features, provides access to digital teletext for blind and partially sighted people.

TREASURY

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [211004]

Angela Eagle: The individual domestic air flights undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives against the corporate contract and the associated costs are as follows.

	Number	*Total cost 2007-08 (£)*
HMT	[1]166	39,067
DMO	[2]3	892
OGC	[1]237	52,575
Royal Mint	[1]22	7,095
Government Actuary's Department	[1]56	5,479
OGCbuying solutions	[1]947	116,473
Valuation Office Agency	[1]399	50,408
HMRC	[1]32,641	1,291,145

[1] Trips

[2] Return flights.

NS&I can provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what civil service grade the Head of the Government Finance Profession is. [211779]

Angela Eagle: The civil service grade of the head of the Government Finance Profession is director-general, senior civil service pay band 3.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications his Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [210848]

Angela Eagle: Two applications were made in the last 24 months: the first was in respect of internal alterations to partitions within the building and the second, currently awaiting approval, was for netting to prevent birds from resting on the roofs over lightwells.

No licensing applications were made during this period.

Departmental Translation Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205173]

Angela Eagle: Total spending on translation costs cannot be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold as the production price charged for certain documents may include a translation element that cannot be readily disaggregated. Where translation spending can be identified it amounted to £1,413 in 2007-08, subject to any necessary adjustments following the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit of the 2007-08 HM Treasury Resource Account. This spending represented the Treasury's share of the cost of the provision of interpreters at European Commission working group meetings in Brussels attended by Treasury officials and cannot therefore be broken down by language.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited into his Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if he will make a statement. [206475]

Angela Eagle: The Department and its agencies carry out verification of the UK unspent criminal record declarations for all new recruits, and, where national security vetting is required, a check of spent convictions.

The current position in respect of overseas checks was described in the answer that the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier), gave to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 4 February 2008 *Official Report*, column 825W.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each plan. [210849]

Kitty Ussher: A high-level plan was produced in January 2005. This plan covers HM Treasury and its agencies, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Debt Management Office (DMO). The plan is publicly available on HM Treasury's website on the following link:

http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/about/information/foi_disclosures/2006/foi_eurodeptplans_2006.cfm

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase in his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; what value of Fairtrade produce was purchased in his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of total revenue this represented. [208712]

Angela Eagle: Fairtrade products available for purchase are tea, coffee, hot chocolate, various fruit items and chocolate.

All tea and coffee products offered at official meetings and engagements are certified Fairtrade.

Catering facilities in 1 Horse Guards road are provided by a sub-contractor to the PFI provider who is not willing to release detailed information on his expenditure as it is considered commercially sensitive; however, the sub-contractor has confirmed that Fairtrade purchases average 31 per cent. of total purchasing expenditure.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procurement projects have been halted as a result of recommendations made by his Department's major projects review group since January 2007. [210727]

Angela Eagle: An update on the major projects review group and a summary of its decisions will be published in HM Treasury's annual report and accounts 2007-08.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Department and each of its agencies subscribes to each week; and at what cost. [210966]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury and its agencies do not subscribe to the *Morning Star* publication.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what resources his Department has allocated to the preparation of its forthcoming factual paper on the Barnett Formula. [210724]

Yvette Cooper: The paper is being prepared by the Local Government, Regions and Devolved Countries team in the Treasury.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek information from other stakeholders on the operation of the Barnett Formula to inform his Department's forthcoming factual paper on the formula. [210725]

Yvette Cooper: My Department's forthcoming paper on the Barnett formula will be factual in nature, reflecting experience of the operation of the Barnett formula since the formula was introduced.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual cost to the Exchequer of current pension contribution tax relief, broken down by marginal tax band. [211254]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 179W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question *(a)* 204170, *(b)* 204171, *(c)* 204172 and *(d)* 204173 on vehicle excise duty, tabled by the hon. Member for Putney on 1 March 2008. [211198]

Angela Eagle: Notice of the hon. Member's questions first appeared on 2 May. The questions concerned required detailed analysis. I hope to be in a position to reply substantively shortly.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff are in each province of *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what functions they are carrying out in each case. [210500]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For security reasons, we do not disclose the number of staff we have working in Afghanistan and Iraq.

DFID's role in Afghanistan supports three of the Afghan Government's own objectives as set out in their national development strategy (ANDS): building effective state institutions, improving economic management and the effectiveness of aid, and improving the livelihoods of rural people. In Helmand, DFID oversees agriculture, infrastructure and microfinance projects, and gives advice on development to the provincial reconstruction team.

DFID's role in Iraq is to support the Government in unlocking their own human and financial resources. To this end, staff in Baghdad oversee three main programmes: economic reform, developing the machinery of government and donor co-ordination of humanitarian relief efforts. The DFID representative in Basra oversees DFID's power and water projects, and economic and governance work through the UK-led provincial reconstruction team.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what private contractors provided protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in 2007; [210501]

(2) how much his Department spent on private contractors providing protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in 2007. [210502]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) engages private contractors to provide protection services for our staff in high-threat environments.

In 2007-08, Control Risks Group (CRG) and Kroll provided mobile security for DFID staff, consultants and static guarding for our compounds in Iraq. Such contracts have been managed and administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the total cost incurred by DFID was £5.9 million.

In 2007-08, the private contractor ArmorGroup provided protection services for DFID in Afghanistan. The contract is managed and administered by the FCO and the total cost incurred by DFID was £2.03 million.

Asia: Roads

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether UK aid is *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly involved in financing the construction of the Asia Highway. [209477]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information is as follows:

(a) UK aid directly financed 114km of the Butwal-Narayanghat section of the Asian highway in the 1980s and support was also provided for constructing some bridges in the 1990s. Other donors, including the former Soviet Union, India, the People's Republic of China, the Swiss Government and the United States of America also provided support.

(b) Indirectly, we provide finance to multilateral investment banks, including the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. Both have large and complex transport lending portfolios. Through individual sovereign loans to recipient countries, elements of this 26,000km multi-billion pound endeavour have been financed by such banks.

Congo Basin Forest Fund

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the Congo Basin Fund is being spent in support of forest conservation; whether he has had discussions with other donors on contributing to the fund; and what the relationship of the fund is to the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund managed by the World Bank. [210097]

Mr. Thomas: The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) will be launched on 17 June 2008. Governments, civil society and private sector organisations will be eligible to apply for funding once the fund has been launched. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria: innovation, slowing deforestation, reducing poverty and conformance with the COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission) Convergence Plan.

In addition to the initial £50 million contribution to the CBFF, the UK has allocated up to £8 million to fund start-up activities, the nature of which are under consideration.

The fund has been welcomed by donors who are already active in the region. In addition, we have held discussions with the Norwegians, US, Japanese and French on contributing to the fund. We are also considering collaboration with other donors under start-up activities.

The Congo Basin Forest Fund and Forest Carbon Partnership are both resourced from the Strategic Climate Fund which will be housed at the World Bank. Officials are in constant dialogue to ensure synergies arise from the contributions that both are planning to support.

EU Aid: Standards

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will take steps at EU level to ensure the publication of multiannual timetables showing how European Union member states are meeting their aid targets. [210340]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: European Union member states strongly reaffirmed their commitment to their aid targets at the recent General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC). The Council's conclusions also strongly encourage member states to establish multi-annual timetables as soon as possible to illustrate how they will reach these targets. The Council also called on the European Commission to include information on the establishment and implementation of these timetables in its regular reporting on financing for development. The next report will be published in early 2009.

The UK worked hard to ensure that the conclusions on aid targets and timetables were agreed by member states at the GAERC, and continues to push for the establishment and implementation of timetables for all EU member states. We report progress against our own targets on a regular basis, including in the DFID Annual Report.

Gaza: Electricity

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the *(a)* Palestinian authority and *(b)* Israeli authorities on the prolonged power cuts and surges as a result of the strikes by the Association of Gas Distribution in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [211181]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have urged the Government of Israel to ensure that, in line with their own public commitments, their actions do not result in an humanitarian crisis in Gaza. For example the Foreign Secretary and I issued a statement on 8 February expressing our grave concern over the fuel situation. We also fully support the EU presidency statement in April urging "regular and unrestricted delivery of fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip in order not to aggravate further the humanitarian situation". We are conscious that Palestinian militants have deliberately also aggravated the humanitarian situation, including through the attacks on the Nahal Oz and Kerem Shalom crossings. We condemn such actions, which can only lead to more misery for the people of Gaza. The violence needs to stop and basic humanitarian supplies, including fuel, should be allowed in and properly distributed to those who need them.

There is a shortage of all types of fuel in Gaza. At present, Gaza experiences about six to eight hours of daily power cuts. Power cuts paralyse daily life and stop essential services, including health care, being delivered effectively. Fuel supply to the Gaza power plant is sourced by the European Commission and delivered directly, and has not been affected by the association's strike. The Israeli authorities only allow delivery of about 2.2 million litres of the 3.5 million litres that the power plant needs to operate at full capacity. The UK has given £15 million to the EC's Temporary International Mechanism and £15.45 to its successor PEGASE for basic services to ordinary Palestinians, including delivery of fuel to the Gaza power plant.

International Assistance: Standards

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will make it his policy to give responsibility to the UN to monitor and evaluate the efforts of international organisations to tackle abuses by peacekeepers and aid workers; [210341]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take through the United Nations to improve reporting of and action taken in response to sexual exploitation and abuse of children by UN peacekeepers. [210342]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

We believe strongly that UN personnel must uphold the highest standards of behaviour. The vast majority of UN peacekeepers uphold those standards while doing important work in difficult and dangerous circumstances. They are working to build the conditions for sustainable peace.

The UK takes all allegations of misconduct by UN and other peacekeepers extremely seriously. The UN is responsible for tackling any individual allegations of misconduct with troop-contributing countries. We will continue to work closely with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other partners to ensure that its 'zero tolerance' policy towards incidents of abuse is implemented in full. We have been instrumental in instigating some recent policy changes at the UN aimed at preventing and tackling sexual exploitation and abuse. These include: a more robust Model Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and Troop Contributing Countries; an upgraded Welfare and Recreation Strategy for peacekeeping and related personnel; a Victim's Assistance Strategy to provide assistance for survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by UN personnel; and a resolution on 'Criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission'.

We are also helping to support the UN's efforts to assess, prioritise and respond to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children by UN peacekeepers and aid workers. This has involved taking concrete measures to address both military and civilian branches of peacekeeping support operations. One such measure, the UN's Conduct and Discipline Units, is funded by the UK's Conflict Prevention Pool. These teams work to ensure that all peacekeeping personnel undergo training on UN standards of conduct relating to sexual exploitation and abuse, and that all allegations of wrongdoing are reported upon and followed up with appropriate action. In the UN Mission in Liberia, for example, the number of cases reported to the UN was reduced by half from 2006 to 2007.

The UK supports all efforts to protect the world's most vulnerable children from sexual abuse. To strengthen the UN's approach further, the UK supported the UN Secretary-General's recent recommendation to include, where appropriate, child protection advisers within the mandates of peacekeeping missions. As an active member of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we will continue to work to improve the effectiveness of existing UN monitoring, reporting and disciplinary mechanisms.

Through its Conflict Prevention programme, the UK also helps to train military personnel for peacekeeping operations. Good conduct and respect for human rights is an integral part of all training courses. The UK will continue to provide training on peace support operations for troops from other countries, which covers conduct and discipline, particularly the importance of protecting civilians (including women and children) in accordance with international law.

Save The Children (the non-governmental organisation) raises some important concerns in its report about abuse committed by not just UN personnel but aid workers employed by non-governmental organisations. We need to consider carefully with the UN and the non-governmental organisation community how best to ensure that children are not subject to abuse.

Occupied Territories: Business

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage business investment in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank. [211194]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Private sector investment is a priority for the Department for International Development's programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The UK funded the Investment Climate Assessment conducted by the World Bank in 2007, which was critical to identifying the challenges and needs for business to recover in the OPTs. DFID, in partnership with the World Bank, has allocated £3 million over three years to make Palestinian businesses more competitive.

DFID was a leading partner of the Palestine Investment Conference (PIC) that took place in Bethlehem on 21-23 May. I hosted a "curtain-raiser" event for it here in London on 2 May. The conference itself was successful. With DFID support, investment projects totalling £1 billion were prepared for the conference. These have the potential to create 50,000 new jobs, which is critical to economic recovery and a sense of hope, particularly among young people. Ten investment agreements were signed for a total of over £700 million, primarily in housing, infrastructure and telecommunications with Arab companies. At the conference, I launched a new private sector initiative—the £3.7 million New Market Development Initiative—to support Palestinian businesses to compete in new markets and enhance exports. DFID will provide £3 million and the World Bank £0.7 million. We will continue to work to help make investment promises a reality.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the safety of British aid workers overseas. [211054]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development staff posted abroad receive security briefing and training. While they are in country, office and home accommodation and local travel are security risk-assessed and appropriate security safeguards adopted.

Consultants and contractors employed by DFID are responsible for their own security and safety arrangements. However, DFID will seek to ensure that they are appropriately briefed on security matters.

Consultants and contractors and other British aid staff working independently of DFID, such as NGOs, will have access to Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular services as well as the advice offered on travel to countries as listed on the FCO website.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the distribution of aid. [211055]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Over the past year, the Department for International Development has improved the distribution of its bilateral aid by putting in place a formal two-stage process to support allocation decisions. The first stage uses a model to guide allocations to low-income countries based on need and their ability to use the aid effectively. The second stage takes the allocations proposed by the model and considers how other country-level considerations, such as the likelihood of countries' getting into conflict or their progress in reaching the millennium development goals, may affect their allocations.

In addition, DFID is committed to improving distribution of aid through the multilateral system by strengthening the evidence base for multilateral effectiveness. DFID produces multilateral development effectiveness summaries which measure multilateral organisations according to their country level and global results, how they manage resources and partnerships with others, and how they build for the future. DFID is also working with other donors through the multilateral organisations performance assessment network (MOPAN) to develop a method of measuring the effectiveness of multilateral aid for use by the joint donor group.

Further information on aid allocation and distribution is available in chapters 5 and 10 of the DFID annual report 2008, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

NHS Dentistry

10. **Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are waiting to be registered with an NHS dentist in the Hemsworth constituency. [211299]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts to determine how best to manage patients seeking NHS dental services.

Care of the Elderly

11. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the provision to care of the elderly. [211300]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: These are what we already have to improve the provision of care:

the three year 'Putting People First' social care reform programme in every local authority area;

first ever national dementia and end of life strategies;

extension of 'Dignity in Care' campaign;

a new preventative health strategy specifically for older people;

extending the Human Rights Act to publicly funded residents of private care homes;

new 10-year carers' strategy;

joint population needs assessment and local area agreements in every local authority area;

the review of the adult protection framework;

Lord Darzi NHS stage review report; and

the review of the care and support system leading to a Green Paper.

Cross-border NHS Services

12. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on the cross-border availability of NHS services. [211301]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is due to meet Nicola Sturgeon MSP soon.

Senior officials routinely discuss cross-border issues.

Two-Tier Work Force Guidance

13. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he monitors the use in the NHS of Office of Government Commerce guidance on the two-tier work force. [211302]

Ann Keen: The Department monitors the use in the NHS of the Office of Government Commerce guidance on the two-tier work force, known as the Cabinet Office code of practice on workforce matters, through regular meetings with trade unions, the CBI, the Business Services Association and NHS Employers.

There are also similar arrangements with other Government Departments through the Public Services Forum.

Epilepsy and Autism

14. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has evaluated on the co-morbidity of epilepsy and autism. [211303]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not evaluated any research on the co-morbidity of epilepsy and autism. The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, via the Science and Innovation Group.

We recently announced our intention to fund a prevalence study focusing on adults with autism and Asperger's Syndrome. This study will include people with epilepsy.

Accident and Emergency Departments

15. **Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to reimburse accident and emergency departments for the treatment costs incurred in treating patients from other NHS trust areas. [211304]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts are reimbursed for the patients they treat, regardless of where the patient lives. This year, for the first time, hospitals can claim reimbursement for accident and emergency services from primary care trusts outside the local area.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

16. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving the Government's target of providing cardiac rehabilitation for 85 per cent. of heart attack and re-vascularisation patients. [211305]

Ann Keen: Chapter 7 of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, published in 2000, issued appropriate guidance to the national health services regarding the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Implementation of this guidance is a matter for the local NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

Polyclinics

17. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the consultation on GP-led health centres and polyclinics will begin. [211306]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local consultations on proposals for GP-led health centres have already begun in most primary care trust areas, which should include the hon. Member's area.

GP Dispensing

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on dispensing arrangements for GP practices in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [211307]

Dawn Primarolo: Following publication of the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future", there have been a number of representations—through the Listening Events and through correspondence—concerning the future arrangements for dispensing by GPs including those in rural areas. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Formal consultation on our intentions to reform pharmacy services to improve services for patients will begin before the summer recess.

Family Nurse Partnerships

20. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on family nurse partnerships. [211309]

Ann Keen: The Family Nurse Partnership is currently being tested in 10 areas in England. Over the next year we will extend this pilot to another 20 areas. We still have much to learn about the programme and its impact on children and families in this country, but we are pleased to say that early signs are promising.

Carers Strategy

21. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the carers strategy. [211311]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Last Tuesday we announced our new 10-year Carers Strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own." The strategy sets an ambitious vision focusing on providing more services and support for carers over the next 10 years.

Long-Term Conditions

22. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in meeting the targets within the national service framework for long-term conditions. [211312]

Ann Keen: The "National Service Framework for Long-Term conditions" (NSF) has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change to take account of local priorities and needs.

The NSF Good Practice Guide demonstrates that some organisations have successfully addressed aspects of the NSF's service delivery. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library.

Diabetes

23. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist people with diabetes who are unable to take out insurance against critical illness. [211313]

Ann Keen: The decision whether to take out private medical insurance and/or critical illness cover is a personal one.

We continue to support the national health service in implementing the standards set out in the Diabetes National Service Framework (NSF) to improve services for people with diabetes.

HIV

24. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England diagnosed with HIV are ineligible for treatment. [211314]

Dawn Primarolo: National HIV surveillance data collated at the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections does not collect information on eligibility for treatment. All people who are ordinarily resident in England are entitled to free national health service treatment, including treatment for HIV, and latest data show that in 2006 there were 48,480 diagnosed HIV-infected individuals who accessed HIV-related care at national health service sites in England.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the causes of spontaneous abortion; when his Department last undertook a review of the causes of spontaneous abortion that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [209118]

Dawn Primarolo: The Hammersmith, St Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), formed as part of the implementation of the Government's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" and funded by the Department, is undertaking research that aims to further understanding of the mechanisms underlying recurrent miscarriage. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library. The Cambridge University Hospitals and University of Cambridge BRC is separately working to develop an integrated method of screening pregnant women to determine their risk of, and to identify novel genetic and molecular markers for, adverse perinatal outcome.

The Medical Research Council supports a wide portfolio of research related to premature birth and related conditions, reproductive tract research and underpinning reproductive medicine and paediatric research and has recently funded two projects directly related to spontaneous abortion.

The Department has not undertaken a review of the causes of spontaneous abortion. We are however aware of work by organisations such as the Miscarriage Association, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Association of Early Pregnancy Units in this area. In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on antenatal care include guidance to reduce the risk of miscarriage.

Arthritis: Occupational Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has on the proportion of rheumatoid arthritis patients who, when treated with anti-TNF medications, respond positively to the treatment and are enable to remain at work. [210868]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis who are able to remain in work after treatment is not collected.

Asthma

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to spearhead primary care trusts on the reduction of health inequalities for people with asthma. [210423]

Dawn Primarolo: No guidance has been issued to spearhead primary care trusts on the reduction of health inequalities for people with asthma.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to provide a digital mammography set in all breast cancer screening units by 2010. [211310]

Ann Keen: As a result of requests from local breast screening services, we intend to put in place a national framework contract for digital mammography X-ray equipment. This approach will enable standardised equipment to be purchased and the best value for money to be obtained, and will support local services with national expertise. We also intend to put in place the necessary development work to enable the digital images created by the new equipment to be stored electronically in the picture archiving and communications system currently in use for other diagnostic imaging services.

Breast Feeding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trained health professionals have received training in giving breastfeeding advice; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that training. [211167]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department encourages the health professional bodies to continue to provide advice and resources to assist health professionals in gaining skills in breastfeeding advice. Responsibility for training of health professionals rests with the respective health professional bodies and the employing organisation.

At present, we are encouraging hospitals and community settings to adopt the United Nations Children's Fund's Baby Friendly Initiative, as evidence shows that the proportion of babies breastfed at birth increases by more than 10 per cent. on average over four years when hospitals implement the Baby Friendly standards. Part of this package includes training for midwives and health visitors to help mothers establish breastfeeding and to support them in the early weeks.

Cord Blood

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the level of cord blood collection of the new licensing procedure announced by the Human Tissue Authority on 30 April. [210815]

Dawn Primarolo: While it is not possible to predict with accuracy the effect on levels of cord blood collection, the Human Tissue Authority has had discussions with organisations affected by the new procedures with a view to creating a regulatory framework that is flexible and proportionate and meets the requirements of the Regulations. The Department is currently carrying out a cord blood policy review which is due to report to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in the autumn.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether new licensing procedures for cord blood collection will require the presence of a qualified phlebotomist at the collection of the blood as a condition of the issue of a licence. [210826]

Dawn Primarolo: No. The Human Tissue Authority's standards require that staff involved in procurement are trained and competent at the tasks they perform, and have procedures in place to protect the safety of donors.

Dental Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average distance that a person had to travel to see an NHS dentist in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* each constituency in Essex and *(c)* England (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [210690]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not available. It is for primary care trusts to commission local dental services to meet local needs. PCTs are expected to develop robust commissioning plans. These will include consideration of access to local dental services at the time and place that people want.

Dietary Supplements: Jersey

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Food Standards Agency has secured agreement with the Government of Jersey to bring forward legislation to establish compliance with European legislation on food supplements and nutrition and health claims in accordance with protocol 3 of the Treaty of Accession; and if he will make a statement; [211078]

(2) when he next plans to discuss with the Government of Jersey their obligations under protocol 3 of the Treaty of Accession to comply with European legislation on the free movement of trade in health products, with particular reference to the medicines legislation, the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [211079]

Dawn Primarolo: A meeting was held between officials of the Crown Dependencies and those of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and other interested United Kingdom Government Departments on 11 April 2008. At this meeting, officials representing the Government of Jersey indicated that a major update of food safety legislation was under way in Jersey and that both the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation would be implemented as part of this exercise.

Officials of the Government of Jersey have undertaken to keep the FSA apprised of progress in updating Jersey food safety legislation and to work with companies on the island to address the issue of the sale of food supplements which are illegal in the UK.

There are no current plans for further discussions with the Government of Jersey on the Food Supplements Directive or the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will be arranging discussions with the Government of Jersey on the implementation of the medicines directive in Jersey during the course of 2008.

Direct Payments

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received direct payments in *(a)* each quarter of 2007-08 and *(b)* the first quarter of 2008-09. [211754]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not yet available. The data are collected on an annual basis for the period 1 April to 31 March. Quarterly data are not held centrally.

In total 48,000 people aged 18 and over received direct payments in England during the year 2006-07.

Drugs: Jersey

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has recently reviewed the medicine laws of Jersey to monitor compliance with European legislation under Protocol 3 of the Treaty of Accession. [211077]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) does not believe that the Medicines (Jersey) Law 1995 complies with European medicines legislation as the Jersey Law is based on the United Kingdom's Medicines Act of 1968. The MHRA will be discussing this matter with the Government of Jersey during 2008.

Drugs: Misuse

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken to manage interaction between patients referred to drug and alcohol services for addiction to prescription drugs and those referred for addiction to illegal drugs. [208541]

Dawn Primarolo: The majority of specialist drug treatment services only treat those whose primary drug of addiction is an illicit drug, such as crack or heroin, and do not routinely treat individuals who are primarily addicted to prescription drugs.

However, people with illicit drug problems often misuse a variety of drugs, including prescription drugs. In cases like this, the specialist drug treatment service will treat both the illicit drug use and the prescription drug use.

Individuals whose primary drug of addiction is a prescribed drug and who do not have an illicit drug problem are normally treated in a primary care setting or by mental health services.

A range of guidance is available to specialist drug treatment services, including the joint Department of Health and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse guidelines, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management", published in September 2007, which can be found on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Substancemisuse/Substancemisusegeneralinformation/DH_4064342

Epilepsy: Death

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent evaluation he has made of research on sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. [210343]

Ann Keen: We have made no evaluation of research on sudden unexpected death in epilepsy.

However, I have agreed to meet with Epilepsy Bereaved to discuss this matter further.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to undertake research on sudden unexplained deaths in epilepsy. [209816]

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he plans to provide for sudden unexpected death in epilepsy research in each of the next three years. [210344]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 902W.

Female Genital Mutilation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take on the issue of guidance to healthcare professionals on the treatment of cases arising from female genital mutilation. [210935]

Dawn Primarolo: "Working Together to Safeguard Children" published in April 2006, the main inter-agency guide to safeguarding the welfare of children, includes advice on safeguarding children who may have been or are in danger of being victims of this crime. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from what source the £42 million funding to be provided by central Government for the capital costs of fluoridation will be drawn. [210349]

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £42 million he announced in February for health authorities to consult on fluoridation has been spent; which health authorities have applied for funding; and for how much in each case. [210402]

Ann Keen: Up to £43 million will be available from centrally managed national health service capital funds over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to assist strategic health authorities (SHAs) with the capital cost of establishing new fluoridation schemes which have been supported by local communities, or refurbishing plant to maintain existing fluoridation schemes. Funding for public consultations needs to be agreed locally between the responsible SHA and participating primary care trusts, drawing upon their local NHS budgets. No public consultation on any new fluoridation scheme has yet been conducted. The following bids have been received so far for support with the cost of upgrading and refurbishment of the plant used in existing fluoridation schemes: West Midlands SHA has requested £1.35 million, East Midlands SHA £1.3 million, and North West SHA £250,000.

General Practitioners: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services currently offered by existing GP practices in Hemel Hempstead will also be offered by the polyclinic proposed to be sited there; and if he will make a statement. [208766]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no proposals for a new Polyclinic in Hemel Hempstead.

We have asked primary care trusts to include requirements for core general practitioner services within their specifications for the new GP-led health centres. PCTs are being encouraged to develop locally appropriate other services that would bring together a wide range of community-based services, determined by local need. West Hertfordshire PCT held a consultation within West Hertfordshire from 26 March to 26 May 2008. All consultation outcomes will be considered before finalisation of the West Hertfordshire PCT scheme.

Health Partnerships: Miners Welfares

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health partnerships there are which *(a)* are based in miners welfares and *(b)* include miners welfares. [174652]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the provision of incentives for the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial disease in primary care. [210427]

Ann Keen: The Department has engaged in discussions with Target PAD about ways to support adoption of best practice in identifying and treating patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) as part of a national overall strategy for vascular diseases.

The Department is currently developing the programme of vascular assessment originally announced by the Prime Minister in January, and outlined in "Putting Prevention First", which is due to be rolled out from 2009-10. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. The programme is aimed at assessing and modifying risk factors for vascular disease. These are common to the whole range of vascular diseases, including PAD.

We expect the combination of vascular risk assessments and existing Quality and Outcome Framework registers for vascular diseases to identify the majority of people with PAD or at significant risk of developing it.

In addition, the Department has offered to work with Target PAD to develop a national specification for primary care trusts to commission local enhanced services in relation to PAD or for its treatment.

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to improve diagnosis rates of hepatitis C; what representations he has received on this issue since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [209103]

Dawn Primarolo: "Hepatitis C: Action Plan for England" (2004) sets out a national framework for the national health service and other key stakeholders to strengthen efforts to tackle hepatitis C, including by increased diagnosis. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Since then the Department has funded the hepatitis C awareness campaign, which has contributed to increased hepatitis C testing, diagnosis and treatment. The campaign, for healthcare professionals and the public, uses a range of methods of communication, including:

information leaflets for healthcare professionals and the public;

press, radio and bus advertising;

a hepatitis C awareness website;

a freephone information line; and

an innovative touring photography exhibition in partnership with local national health service organisations and other stakeholders.

This will continue in 2008-09.

Since June 2007, the Department has received approximately 10 representations on this issue from hon. Members in their own right or on behalf of constituents, members of the public and the voluntary sector.

Hygiene: Domestic Safety

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on standards of hygiene in domestic kitchens and their implications for public health. [211069]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has no current plans to fund further research on standards of hygiene in the domestic kitchen, having funded a number of projects in the past. The FSA recognises the importance of good food hygiene and is actively working to promote appropriate messages to consumers to encourage best practice in the home. The FSA will consider commissioning research should specific problems or issues relating to hygiene in the domestic kitchen arise in the future.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the self-assessment audit tools issued to the NHS in November 2007 to help strengthen pandemic influenza plans, as referred to on page 16 of his Department's NHS Winter Report 2007-08, published on 9 April 2008; whether the results of the audit will be collated at a national level; what steps he is taking to support NHS organisations in addressing issues raised in the audit; and if he will make a statement. [209086]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of the self-assessment questionnaires issued to strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been placed in the Library.

The findings of the self-assessment are currently being considered at SHA level. This will assist in identifying where further improvements are required. Additional work is being done centrally to support the national health service in its preparedness planning.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has identified groups for which the pre-exposure prophylactic use of antivirals in the event of an influenza pandemic is required. [209087]

Dawn Primarolo: We currently have a sufficient stockpile of antiviral medicines to treat 25 per cent. of the population. In November 2007 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced proposals for the stockpile to be increased to cover 50 per cent. of the population. The adoption of a policy of household prophylaxis is still being considered by the Department.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health between what dates Operation United Endeavour II ran in January 2008, as stated on page 16 of his Department's NHS Winter Report 2007-08, published on 9 April 2008; when Operation United Endeavour I was run; what the outcomes were of Operations United Endeavour *(a)* I and *(b)* II; what form the daily cross-Government pandemic influenza report takes; and if he will make a statement. [209106]

Dawn Primarolo: Operation United Endeavour II took place between 14-18 January 2008. The previous United Endeavour exercise took place in November 2005.

The exercises demonstrated that the arrangements in place for surveillance during a pandemic are able to function effectively. A number of lessons to enhance the robustness and resilience of the system were identified in United Endeavour II which are being addressed. These include enhancements to the daily cross-Government pandemic influenza report which provides Ministers with the necessary information for key strategic and tactical decisions during a pandemic.

Organ Donors

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the data collected by the UKT Potential Donor Audit; and if he will make a statement. [209908]

Ann Keen: The UK Transplant (part of NHS Blood and Transplant) national potential donor audit (PDA) began in January 2003, as part of a series of measures to improve organ donation. The principal aim of this audit is to determine the potential number of organ donors in the United Kingdom. Data are collected on every patient death in an intensive care unit.

A PDA summary report for the 24-month period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 has been placed in the Library. The report and further information are available on the UK Transplant website at

www.uktransplant.org.uk/ukt/statistics/potential_donor_audit/potential_donor_audit.jsp

Pharmacy

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had discussions with the Office of Fair Trading on surgery drug dispensaries and the proposed changes to dispensing powers outlined in the Pharmacy White Paper. [211476]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has had no such discussions since publication of the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—delivering the Future" (Cm7341) on 3 April 2008. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

Pregnant Women

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pregnant women who are not registered with a general practitioner; and what steps his Department is taking to identify such women. [210605]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Social Services: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to improve social care provision. [211052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In December 2007, we published "Putting People First", a cross-sector concordat establishing the collaboration between central and local government, the sector's professional leadership, providers and the regulator. It set out the shared aims and values which transform adult social care and people's experience of local support and services. At that time we also announced the Social Care Reform Grant, a new, ringfenced grant of £520 million over the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11. The expectation is that in the next three years councils will have made significant steps towards redesigning and reshaping their adult social care services, with the majority having most of the core components of a personalised system in place by 2011.

On 10 June we published the new carers strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own". The strategy sets an ambitious vision focusing on providing greater services and support for carers over the next 10 years. Specifically, in the short term, to kick-start the process of improving support for carers, we are investing an additional £150 million in providing breaks for carers, up to £38 million in helping carers combine paid employment and caring and over £6 million in support for young carers. Furthermore, we are committed, in the longer term, to reviewing the structure of the benefits available to carers in the context of wider benefit reform and the fundamental review of the care and support system. In total, we are investing £255 million in the short-term commitments included in the strategy. This investment builds on the annual carers grant for local authorities to enable them to support carers (this stands at £224 million in 2008-09).

Finally, on 12 May 2008 the Government launched a process for extensive public engagement, which will lead to a Green Paper identifying key issues and options for reform of the core and support system to be published in early 2009.

Strokes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the (i) causes and (ii) means of prevention of a transient ischaemic attack; when his Department last undertook a review of those matters that took into account (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [210523]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR Health Technology Assessment, Service Development and Organisation, and Research for Patient Benefit programmes have each supported recently completed or current research of direct relevance to the hon. Member's question.

The work programme of the Institute's Oxford Biomedical Research Centre has a stroke theme, of which part is devoted to the early prevention of stroke. Two NIHR programme grants with a total value of £2.8 million have been awarded for projects also concerned with stroke prevention. Further details are available on the NIHR website at

www.nihr.ac.uk.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In 2006-07 the MRC spent £6.8 million on stroke-related research, much of which will be of relevance to transient ischaemic attack.

The Department, together with academics, clinicians, the voluntary sector and stroke survivors and their carers, looked at the available evidence in relation to the treatment and prevention of transient ischaemic attack when preparing the National Stroke Strategy. The strategy was published in December 2007 and makes recommendations to the NHS about the most effective way to treat those who have a transient ischaemic attack. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee: Manpower

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister who the *(a)* clerk is and *(b)* secretariat are of the Intelligence and Security Committee. [211978]

The Prime Minister: The clerk and secretariat of the Intelligence and Security Committee are civil servants employed by the Cabinet Office. They are appointed in accordance with the rules governing all civil service appointments.

JUSTICE

Criminal Proceedings

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1111W, on criminal proceedings, (1) when the working group on the Very High Cost Case (VHCC) scheme will make its proposals for the next VHCC scheme; and whether these will be published; [210298]

(2) how frequently the working group on the Very High Cost Case scheme meets. [210299]

Maria Eagle: The working group on Very High Cost Cases (VHCC) aims to present initial proposals for the next VHCC scheme by 8 July 2008. Detailed proposals will then be developed and will be subject to public consultation in due course.

The working group meets on a regular basis at appropriate points, rather than following a particular pattern of meetings.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Central Office of Information who are entitled to travel on a business class or first class air fare on official business are permitted to travel in a cheaper class; and what (i) financial and (ii) other benefits staff are permitted to accrue from any saving. [211159]

Mr. Wills: Staff entitled to travel business or first class are permitted to travel in a cheaper class.

Staff are not permitted to accrue any financial cost or other benefits from any savings made as a result of a downgrade in the class of air fare.

As the Department meets the financial cost of official travel, any savings made would be accrued by the Department and not the travelling officer.

The Central Office of Information is not a component of the Ministry of Justice and we are therefore unable to respond on its behalf. The Central Office of Information's Chief Executive reports to the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208520]

Mr. Wills: My Department does not hold central records of the amount spent on sending mail overseas. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2012-24W, on departmental public participation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each report and the data from the Constitution directorate tracker survey conducted by Ipsos MORI in the last 12 months. [210930]

Mr. Wills: The constitution directorate tracker survey was conducted in three stages during the 2007-08 financial year, with fieldwork taking place in July, November and March. Departmental statisticians have produced six reports based on the raw survey datasets, two for each wave, containing all of the headline data. Copies of these reports have been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many departmental identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies. [210860]

Mr. Wills: The numbers of reported losses and thefts are as follows:

	Department	*HMCS*	*HMPS*	*Office of Public Guardian*
Lost passes				
2006	113	39	131	—
2007	45	14	127	18

	Department	*HMCS*	*HMPS*	*Office of Public Guardian*
2008 to May	No record	0	27	16
Stolen passes				
2006	6	2	17	[1]—
2007	7	0	7	16
2008 to May	[1]—	2	3	2

[1] No record.

Only one identity card has been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months

It has not been possible to split all 2006 figures to show the last 24 months but figures are included for the period to May 2008. Records of card replacement for the Tribunals Service and the new HQ system do not indicate the reason.

In the Ministry of Justice, the responsibility for administering the issue and return of security passes sits with respective business areas rather than centrally. As a consequence, details for the Probation Service (whose services are administered via 42 separate business areas) could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies last updated their euro changeover plans; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [211115]

Mr. Wills: The former DCA had a detailed Euro Changeover Plan in place by the end of 2004, as requested by HM Treasury. The plan was reviewed regularly, with the latest Highlight Report dated March 2006. This plan covered the following areas:

DCA Corporate HQ
Courts Service
Court Funds Office
Information Commissioners Office
Judge Advocate General
Judicial Studies Board
Law Commission
Legal Services Commission
Legal Services Ombudsman
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee
Public Guardianship Office
Scotland Office
Tribunals Directorate (separate Agency from April 2006)
Wales Office
Land Registry.

There are no plans at present to place a copy in the Library.

The prisons and probation services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform were included in the Home Office plan. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will be responding to the question in respect of the Home Office.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to prevent the opportunities for electoral fraud identified in the judgment on electoral fraud in Slough; and if he will make a statement. [210940]

Bridget Prentice: We have noted the findings and comments in the judgment of the election court. Since 2005, the Government have introduced a range of new measures to strengthen the integrity of our electoral system, and there have been very few proven incidences of fraud since the new measures were brought into force. They include:

> Clear new powers for electoral administrators to cross-check applications to register to vote against other information the council holds.
>
> New requirement for electors to provide personal identifiers (signature and date of birth) if they wish to have a postal vote. The identifiers must be replicated by electors when they subsequently cast their postal vote, and will be cross-checked with the original samples to ensure the postal vote is valid.
>
> Administrators get more time to check postal vote applications because people have to apply for a postal vote a minimum of 11 working days before the close of poll (the previous minimum was six days).
>
> Postal vote applicants have to specify a reason if they want their postal vote to be sent to an address other than that at which they are registered.
>
> Electoral administrators write to everyone who has applied for a postal vote at their registered address acknowledging receipt of their application and confirming the outcome—this will alert people to any applications for postal votes made falsely on their behalf.

The Government are working to improve the electoral register, and agree in principle with individual registration. However, the ground needs to be prepared; unlike Northern Ireland, where there had been a perception of over-registration, in Great Britain there is an issue of under-registration, with in the region of 3.5 million eligible electors not on the electoral register. A rapid and unplanned move to individual registration would exacerbate that situation.

We will take account of the election court's judgment in any further development on electoral registration and postal voting processes and legislation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the level of postal vote fraud. [210959]

Bridget Prentice: Overall, the incidence of postal voting fraud remains relatively low. It is also apparent that the cases that have arisen relate to only a small number of authorities across the country.

However, the Government take the risk of electoral fraud extremely seriously. We have put in place a range of measures to safeguard the security of postal voting. These include the introduction of a system of personal identifiers for postal voters to ensure that postal votes counted at an election are valid. We are also continuing to work closely with the Electoral Commission, police, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each of the last 11 years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of the effects of individual voter registration on the level of voter registration; [211365]

(2) what the average rate of voter registration is in the 100 *(a)* least and *(b)* most deprived wards; what assessment he has made of the effects of individual voter registration on the rate of registration in such wards; and if he will make a statement. [211366]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any estimate of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each of the last 11 years, as such information is not available for all of that period. However, the Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote in its report 'Understanding Electoral Registration', which was published in 2005.

It is not known what the average rate of voter registration is in the 100 *(a)* least and *(b)* most deprived wards as this information is not collected, but we are aware that any new system of electoral registration in Great Britain would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration.

The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. But this will be a far-reaching reform, and it will need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: we want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the United Kingdom's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of those eligible were registered to vote in each ward in Denbighshire in each of the last 11 years; [211367]

(2) what the change in level of voter registration among eligible people has been in those 50 *(a)* constituencies and *(b)* local authority wards with the lowest level of voter registration in 2001 since that date, ranked in descending order by magnitude of change. [211464]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions asking how many and what proportion of those eligible were registered to vote in each ward in Denbighshire in each of the last 11 years (211367) and what the change in level of voter registration among eligible people has been in those 50 *(a)* constituencies and *(b)* local authority wards with the lowest level of voter registration in 2001 since that date, ranked in descending order by magnitude of change. (211464).

Figures for the Parliamentary electorate for each ward in Denbighshire from 1996 to 2007 are provided in Tables la and 1b.

ONS does not hold data for the population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, which includes British Citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within the England and Wales.

Table la: Number registered to vote in parliamentary elections in each ward in Denbighshire, 1996-1998

	1996	1997	1998
Denbighshire County[1]	71,658	70,665	70,084
Bodelwyddan	1,312	1,378	1,402
Corwen	1,805	1,807	1,795
Denbigh Central	1,365	1,384	1,329
Denbigh Lower	3,118	3,162	3,187
Denbigh Upper/Henllan	2,524	2,536	2,467
Dyserth	1,881	1,898	1,846
Efenechtyd	973	965	988
Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla	1,989	2,021	2,034
Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd	1,123	1,095	1,085
Llandrillo	849	882	894
Llandyrnog	967	969	976
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern	1,764	1,783	1,794
Llangollen	2,657	3,056	3,059
Llangollen Rural	1,861	0	0
Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch	1,110	1,138	1,116
Llanynys	892	901	902
Meliden	1,564	1,567	1,553
Prestatyn Central	2,692	2,715	2,681
Prestatyn East	3,028	3,045	3,010
Prestatyn North	4,104	4,106	4,114

Table Ia: Number registered to vote in parliamentary elections in each ward in Denbighshire, 1996-1998

	1996	1997	1998
Prestatyn South West	2,626	2,608	2,551
Rhuddlan	3,116	3,179	3,210
Rhyl East	3,668	3,768	3,677
Rhyl South	3,014	2,997	3,002
Rhyl South East	4,987	5,039	4,989
Rhyl South West	3,734	3,726	3,699
Rhyl West	3,549	3,602	3,428
Ruthin	4,115	4,111	4,069
St.Asaph East	1,314	1,303	1,307
St.Asaph West	1,290	1,270	1,248
Trefnant	1,482	1,488	1,489
Tremeirchion	1,185	1,166	1,183

[1]. As created by The County of Denbighshire Electoral Arrangements Order 1994 and as altered by The Denbighshire and Wrexham (Areas) Order 1996

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Table Ib: Number registered to vote in parliamentary elections in each ward in Denbighshire, 1999–2007

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Denbighshire county[1]	63,882	67,802	68,422	68,93	66,371	67,925	70.014	71,094	66,516
Bodelwyddan	1,397	1,335	1,410	1,417	1,387	1,391	1,415	1,523	1,540
Corwen	1,738	1,696	1,768	1,774	1,699	1,702	1,762	1,807	1,860
Denbigh Central	1,309	1,275	1,299	1,262	1,164	1,301	1,310	1,310	1,348
Denbigh Lower	3,140	3,162	3,108	3,201	3,211	3,231	3,325	3,373	3,407
Denbigh Upper/Henllan	2,489	2,431	2,420	2,385	2,275	2,368	2,376	2,416	2,499
Dyserth[2]	1,848	1,809	1,894	1,902	1,741	1,766	1,815	1,867	1,931
Efenechtyd	1,242	1,222	1,221	1,231	1,231	1,209	1,227	1,236	0
Llanarmon-yn-Ial/Llandegla	1,776	1,771	1,758	1,777	1,768	1,794	1,847	1,857	0
Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd/Llangynhafal	1,125	1,128	1,170	1,168	1.123	1,119	1,144	1,156	1,172
Llandrillo	886	864	868	877	864	875	907	922	945
Llandyrnog	1,551	1,490	1,546	1,539	1,560	1,572	1,606	1,619	0
Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd/Gwyddelwern	1,750	1,709	1,713	1,749	1,748	1,731	1,772	1,798	0
Llangollen	2,981	2,896	2,803	2,949	2,956	2,993	3,047	3,114	3,207
Llanrhaeadr-yng-Nghinmeirch	1,452	1,431	1,453	1,462	1,410	1,443	1,472	1,478	1,518
Prestatyn Central	2,685	2,635	2,670	2,659	2,550	2,598	2,664	2,666	2,759
Prestatyn East	2,983	2,937	3,001	3,013	2,883	2,881	3,006	3,073	3,173
Prestatyn Meliden	1,544	1,451	1,498	1,507	1,444	1,481	1,518	1,538	1,560
Prestatyn North	3,955	3,980	3,988	4,004	3,896	4,141	4,408	4,495	4,655
Prestatyn South West[2]	2,489	2,493	2,518	2,481	2,502	2,556	2,638	2,625	2,735
Rhuddlan[2]	3,130	3,127	3,156	3,202	2,679	2,724	2,760	2,808	2,916
Rhyl East	3,578	3,502	3,590	3,595	3,486	3,552	3,620	3,735	3,737
Rhyl South[2]	3,013	3,030	2,996	2,995	2,895	2,943	3,005	3,013	3,082
Rhyl South East[2]	4,963	4,880	5,094	5,192	5,208	5,511	5,672	5,707	5,915
Rhyl South West	3,708	3,662	3,664	3,607	3,205	3,433	3,534	3,567	3,573
Rhyl West	3,078	3,000	2,750	2,761	2,464	2,457	2,777	2,960	3,317
Ruthin	4,068	3,974	3,988	3,957	3,935	4,001	4,062	4,082	4,190
St. Asaph East	1,301	1,295	1,320	1,329	1,313	1,319	1,320	1,323	1,369
St Asaph West	1,153	1,116	1,201	1,178	1,155	1,179	1,282	1,288	1,322
Trefnant	1,402	1,375	1,409	1,444	1,420	1,440	1,486	1,502	1,524
Tremeirchion	1,148	1,126	1,148	1,176	1,199	1,214	1,237	1,236	1,262

[1] As created by The County of Denbighshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1998.

[2]. 2003 electorate as amended by the Dyserth, Prestatyn, Rhuddlan, Rhyl Communities Order 2003.

Source: Office for National Statistics.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210457]

Mr. Wills: There is currently no statutory requirement to ensure age equality in the provision of goods and services. However, Ministry of Justice equality impact assessment procedures include a requirement to consider age-related issues as part of the policy development process. This covers initiatives within the MOJ and its agencies.

The Government have considered the case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of their consultation paper on proposals for the Equality Bill, "A Framework for Fairness". The Government will publish their response to the consultation shortly.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many copies of the *Morning Star* *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies procures on subscription each week; and at what cost. [210904]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice receives two copies of the *Morning Star* every day (Monday to Friday) at a cost of £6 per week.

Her Majesty's Court Service, The Land Registry, the Boundary Commission for England, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Office of the Public Guardian, Boundary Commission for Wales, the Tribunals Service, the Legal Service Commission and the National Archives do not receive any copies of the *Morning Star* on subscription.

National Identity: Public Participation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 975W, on politics and government, what the final cost was of the consultation on a Statement of Values held in Leicester on 10 December 2007. [210627]

Mr. Straw: The final cost of the of the "Governance of Britain" event held in Leicester on 10 December 2007 was £36,963.50.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities, *(d)* invited members of the public and *(e)* non-invited members of the public attended the consultation event on a Statement of Values in Leicester on 10 December 2007. [210629]

Mr. Straw: A total of 120 people (excluding Ministers and officials) attended the event in Leicester on 10 December 2007. They included:

(a) The Minister of State and me;

(b) 19 Officials who acted as table facilitators and note takers;

(c) 21 representatives of local authorities, including both elected members and officials;

(d) 110 invited members of the public attended as full delegates at the event;

(e) In addition, approximately 10 non-invited members of the public attended the public Q and A session.

In addition, 20 young people attended a question and answer session with me earlier in the day.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of producing the YouTube video of the consultation event on a Statement of Values held in Leicester on 10 December 2007. [210631]

Mr. Straw: No external costs were incurred in producing the YouTube video of the "Governance of Britain" event held in Leicester on 10 December 2007. The filming, editing and uploading of the video were carried out by an in-house film crew and the Ministry of Justice's internal communications team.

Official Secrets Act 1989: Prosecutions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for an offence under section 8 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 there have been since the Act came into force. [211493]

Maria Eagle: Since the Official Secrets Act 1989 came into force on 1 March 1990, no prosecutions and convictions have been counted by the Ministry of Justice under section 8 of the Act.

The court proceedings data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Powers of Attorney

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the average time between first receipt of notice of registration of a lasting power of attorney by the Office of the Public Guardian and the point at which the lasting power of attorney becomes usable in the latest period for which figures are available; [210354]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to process lasting powers of attorney on the wellbeing of elderly people in England. [210355]

Bridget Prentice: Lasting powers of attorney (LPAs) were introduced by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and came into force in October 2007. As of 11 June 2008 the average time taken from receipt of an application to registration by the Office of the Public Guardian was 12 weeks. This time is currently three weeks longer than the OPG's targets in this area. The overall time includes a statutory six-week waiting period during which objections to registration can be made to the Public Guardian and which represents a valuable safeguard against the potential abuse of vulnerable people.

No immediate assessment has been made concerning the effects of the time taken to process and register an LPA. LPAs are not designed for immediate use but as a method for people to plan ahead for a time when they may lack capacity. The OPG will be making an assessment of how the new legislation is operating from October 2008 once the Act has been in operation for a full year. A key element of this review will be an evaluation of how well lasting powers of attorney are meeting people's needs and the impact of the new forms, practices and procedures on the people they are intended to support.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether application fees for powers of attorney to the Office of the Public Guardian are payable if *(a)* the target time for reply is not reached and *(b)* the target time for reply is not reached and the person for whom the applicant applies subsequently dies before reply; [211752]

(2) what the target time is for processing applications for powers of attorney by the Office of the Public Guardian; [211753]

(3) how many applications for powers of attorney were not replied to in the target time by the Office of the Public Guardian in each of the last five years. [211980]

Bridget Prentice: The current fee regulations for both Lasting Powers of Attorney and Enduring Powers of Attorney require a fee to be paid upon an application to register the power with the Office of the Public Guardian. No refund is automatically payable either if the target for registering the power is missed, or if the target is missed and the person who lacks capacity, or the applicant, dies before it is registered.

If an applicant, or the person who lacks capacity, feels that they have suffered significant worry, distress or financial loss as a result of an unreasonable delay then they may be entitled to financial redress.

The Office of the Public Guardian's business plan outlines the targets that have been agreed with the Ministry of Justice. For Lasting Powers of Attorney, these targets, together with the statutory waiting period, give a maximum expected end-to-end processing time of nine weeks. This includes two weeks to process and check the application, a six-week statutory waiting period during which objections to registration can be made, and a further week to notify parties of registration. For Enduring Powers of Attorney the maximum expected end-to-end processing time is six weeks, which includes a five-week statutory waiting period followed by a week to notify parties of registration.

Since 2003 the Public Guardianship Office, and from October the Office of the Public Guardian would have met this timescale for Enduring Powers of Attorney in virtually all cases (between 99-100 per cent.) except in 1996 when 96.3 per cent. of cases met those timescales.

Since October 2007 the OPG has seen increasingly large numbers of applications to register powers of attorney, which has led to delays in the process for Lasting Powers of Attorney. For example, in both April and May this year total applications to register both types of powers of attorney were approximately three times as many as for the same period last year.

This has meant that Lasting Power of Attorney applications are currently taking an average of 12 weeks to process—three weeks longer than we would expect. I regret the delays which are due to the increased volumes of business. Additional resources have already been put into place to address this. The Office of the Public Guardian expects to see delays reduced over the coming weeks so that service standards can begin to be brought back within targets.

Prisons

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) from which local authorities his Department sought information on potential locations for Titan prisons; [210448]

(2) whether he plans to build Titan prisons on sites in *(a)* public ownership, *(b)* private ownership or *(c)* both; and if he will make a statement; [210449]

(3) what account he plans to take of the proximity of existing prisons when deciding where to locate new Titan prisons; and if he will make a statement. [210450]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) sought information on the availability, within its statutory area of authority, of sites which meet our criteria and might be suitable and available for the construction of a Titan prison as defined by the Carter report and announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 821, from all public authorities in the West Midlands, London/Essex and the North West.

NOMS set out its site requirements which are:

Minimum site of 50 acres

Preferably brownfield sites, regular in shape, level and not overlooked

Ideally no restrictions such as listed buildings; rights of way across the site; other third party rights, etc.

Good access from the Public Highway

Ideally all mains services connections already exist

Additionally, NOMS pointed out some of the benefits of a Titan prison which are:

Significant, permanent job creation for 1,500 jobs across the skills range

Economic benefits to a location of c.£36 million per annum

Funding confirmed for these major regeneration projects

NOMS went on to invite public authorities to meet and discuss whether they were able to provide details of suitable sites within their area.

The Ministry of Justice will seek to acquire land that meets the Titan prison criteria, whether in private or in public ownership.

Proximity to existing prisons is not considered within the site search criteria and is not a factor for determining Titan prison sites.

Probation Service: Pay

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason Probation Service staff have not received their contractual pay increments in 2008. [211099]

Maria Eagle: Probation staff have a contractual right to pay progression from 1 April 2008, but the amount of that progression has to be negotiated as part of the annual pay settlement. Discussions relating to this settlement are currently taking place between the probation employers and the trade unions. It is hoped that a settlement will be reached as soon as possible.

Racial Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will break down by ethnicity the *(a)* offender and *(b)* victim of each racially aggravated offence in each of the last five years. [211102]

Maria Eagle: Figures are available for the ethnicity of people convicted of racially aggravated offences for the five calendar years from 2002 to 2006. These statistics are in the following tables.

From 1 April 2008, police forces have been required to collect figures on the ethnicity of victims of racially aggravated offences. These figures remain subject to further collection and quality assurance work before they can be published by the Ministry of Justice.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2002 to 2006[2]

	White	Black	Asian	Other	Unknown	Total
2002	174,143	7,447	15,542	10,645	1,204,424	1,412,201
2003	189,990	9,904	13,013	10,332	1,257,982	1,481,221
2004	197,864	12,346	10,109	7,980	1,309,689	1,537,988
2005	191,281	12,170	9,580	10,330	1,251,891	1,475,252
2006	188,343	12,006	9,295	9,457	1,194,672	1,413,773

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2002[2]

Offence type	White	Black	Asian	Other	Unknown	Total
Homicide	153	17	15	8	432	625
Attempted murder	18	1	1	1	44	65
Wounding or other act endangering life	564	66	43	28	998	1,699
Other more serious offences	99	8	6	1	190	304
Other wounding	6,225	412	315	128	13,319	20,399
Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	48	2	4	2	88	144
Assault without injury	5,853	192	246	104	22,552	28,947
Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	84	2	—	2	199	287
Rape	222	29	19	10	375	655
Other Sexual Offences	1,081	70	85	41	2,452	3,729
Robbery	2,260	587	260	101	4,503	7,711
Burglary	7,461	363	168	119	18,580	26,691
Theft and Handling	25,888	820	901	414	101,928	129,951
Fraud and Forgery	3,376	287	379	169	17,254	21,465
Criminal Damage	1,554	50	51	25	9,320	11,000
Threat or conspiracy to murder	115	14	10	2	307	448
Harassment	866	32	36	15	3,027	3,976
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	43	1	4	5	101	154
Other less serious offences	11,016	423	506	182	41,008	53,135
Other offences	107,217	4,071	12.493	9,288	967,747	1,100,816
All Racially Aggravated Offences	174,143	7,447	15,542	10,645	1,204,424	1,412,201

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2003[2]

Offence type	White	Black	Asian	Other	Unknown	Total
Homicide	212	31	20	11	247	521
Attempted murder	30	9	6	9	40	94
Wounding or other act endangering life	756	92	59	41	727	1,675
Other more serious offences	129	11	15	5	146	306
Other wounding	7,023	411	337	143	12,394	20,308
Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	66	3	2	2	84	15
Assault without injury	6,708	219	245	109	25,000	32,281
Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	99	2	2	2	255	360
Rape	310	40	38	12	273	673

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2003[2]

Offence type	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Other Sexual Offences	1,343	97	104	52	2,086	3,682
Robbery	2,569	678	250	139	3,667	7303
Burglary	7,719	418	188	145	17,256	25, 726
Theft and Handling	25,233	938	850	383	94,247	121,651
Fraud and Forgery	3,564	333	461	190	16,716	21,264
Criminal Damage	2,145	63	63	65	8,897	11,233
Threat or conspiracy to murder	186	5	20	5	327	543
Harassment	953	27	62	23	3,169	4,234
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	50	2	3	—	114	169
Other less serious offences	11,949	496	564	190	43,758	56,957
Other offences	118,946	6,029	9,724	8,806	1,028,579	1,172,084
All Racially Aggravated Offences	189,990	9,904	13,013	10,332	1,357,982	1,481,221

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2004[2]

Offence type	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Homicide	3191	72	38	22	175	626
Attempted murder	42	7	10	6	31	96
Wounding or other act endangering life	1 ,083	157	102	48	507	1,897
Other more serious offences	149	15	22	9	119.	314
Other wounding	7,700	556	392	200	10,896	19,744
Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	80	4	3	—	70	157
Assault without injury	7,556	287	277	100	30,109	38,329
Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	153	6	7	3	340	509
Rape	414	75	45	27	190	751
Other Sexual Offences	1,773	131	129	52	1,949	4,034
Robbery	3,073	879	311	208	3,010	7,481
Burglary	7,938	515	158	123	15,518	24,252
Theft and Handling	24,040	1,002	746	344	86,937	113,069
Fraud and Forgery	3,385	483	466	187	16,257	20,778
Criminal Damage	2,462	99	71	61	9,042	11,735
Threat or conspiracy to murder	204	15	21	8	328	576
Harassment	1,007	36	49	19	3,564	4,675
Racially or religiously aggravated: harassment	55	5	1	1	112	174
Other less serious offences	12,624	565	519	187	47,749	61,644
Other offences	123,807	7,437	6,742	6,375	1,082,786	1,227,147
All Racially Aggravated Offences	197,864	12,346	10,109	7,980	1,309,689	1,537,988

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2005[2]

Offence type	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Homicide	363	88	35	18	152	656
Attempted murder	29	12	12	3	10	66
Wounding or other act endangering life	1,085	133	79	37	538	1,872
Other more serious offences	185	12	20	10	117	344
Other wounding	8,538	543	417	214	11,316	21,028
Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	96	5	6	1	91	199

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2005[2]

Offence type	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Assault without injury	9,086	356	324	114	34,865	44,745
Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	182	10	8	2	425	627
Rape	475	76	32	24	189	726
Other Sexual Offences	1,912	97	138	53	1,812	4,012
Robbery	2,873	756	288	164	3,002	7,083
Burglary	7,526	466	140	129	14,690	22,951
Theft and Handling	23,230	1,087	637	405	80,773	106,132
Fraud and Forgery	3,235	637	431	257	15,809	20,369
Criminal Damage	2,474	91	72	59	9,022	11,718
Threat or conspiracy to murder	224	15	16	5	340	600
Harassment	1,171	46	36	16	3,916	5,185
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	53	5	2	—	90	150
Other less serious offences	13,667	617	460	225	47,128	62,097
Other offences [1]	114,877	7,118	6,427	8,594	1,027,606	1,164,622
All Racially Aggravated Offences	191,281	12,170	9,580	10,330	1,251,891	1,475,252

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Persons convicted for racially aggravated offences by ethnicity[1] at all courts 2006[2]

Offence type	*White*	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Homicide	326	70	51	15	123	585
Attempted murder	38	12	8	2	19	79
Wounding or other act endangering life	1,037	162	84	46	392	1,721
Other more serious offences	172	8	23	3	91	297
Other wounding	9,143	607	418	193	11,281	21,642
Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	98	1	[illegible]	3	116	224
Assault without injury	10,744	412	299	114	37,691	49,260
Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	1 99	13	111	1	505	729
Rape	518	91	47	24	183	863
Other Sexual Offences	2,036	110	138	54	1,700	4,038
Robbery	3,114	888	299	204	3,600	8,105
Burglary	7,505	528	144	114	14,664	22,955
Theft and Handling	22,813	1,098	636	351	76,451	101,349
Fraud and Forgery	3,079	854	496	264	15,004	19,697
Criminal Damage	2,714	106	88	46	9,702	12,656
Threat or conspiracy to murder	210	18	20	7	263	518
Harassment	1,140	51	82	21	4,040	5,334
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	62	7	1	1	127	198
Other less serious offences	14,936	647	443	222	48,117	64,365
Other offences	108,459	6,323	6,001	7,772	970,603	1,099,158
All Racially Aggravated Offences	188,343	12,006	9,295	9,457	1,194,672	1,413,773

[1] The ethnicity classification used here is the standard "4+1" classification as used in the 2001 Census.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Tribunals Service

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which tribunal venues were closed under the Tribunals Service venue rationalisation programme prior to 1 June 2008. [210976]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service inherited a network of hearing venues of varying quality across the UK. Many of these venues are in the same towns/cities. An examination of venue usage showed a substantial under-utilisation of courtrooms in many areas. The Tribunal Service aims to rationalise this network to unify services and operate more efficiently, by introducing a network of multi-jurisdictional hearing centres which more accurately reflect the varying demand of appeal caseload across the UK.

Work to deliver some Tribunals Service venue rationalisation has already begun, where estate opportunities have allowed. The following table provides details of the changes which have taken place.

Tribunals Service venue rationalisation undertaken prior to 1 June 2008

Venue	*Action*	*Date Completed*
Area: Scotland		
Aberdeen	Combine Employment Tribunals (ET) and Social Security and Child Support Appeals (SSCSA) venues in Aberdeen	January 2008
Dundee	Combine ET and SSCSA venues into new premises in Dundee	July 2007
Glasgow	Relocate Criminals Injuries Compensation Appeal Panel (CICAP) to current SSCSA premises in Glasgow	December 2007
Area: north-east/north-west		
Carlisle	Combine ET and SSCSA venues in Carlisle	July 2006
North Shields	Close SSCSA venue and move to Asylum and Immigration Tribunal venue in North Shields	February 2007
Hull	Close SSCSA venue and combine with current ET venue in Hull	January 2008
Westpoint, Manchester	Relocate Pensions Appeal Tribunal and Finance and Tax Tribunals to current ET and SSCSA venues in Manchester	December 2007
Area: Midlands		
Boston	Close poor and underutilised venue and move to daily hire venue in Boston	December 2007
Nottingham	Close SSCSA venue and combine with current ET venue in Nottingham	May 2007
Leicester	Close SSCSA venue and move to current ET venue in Nottingham	November 2007
Area: Wales and south-west		
Bournemouth	Move to daily hire premises in Bournemouth at lease end of current SSCSA venue	September 2007
Area: Greater London and south-east		
Ashford	Close SSCSA venue and move to current ET venue in Ashford	March 2008
Brighton	Close ET venue and move to current SSCSA venue in Brighton	July 2006
Eastbourne	SSCSA venue of a poor standard. Move to a daily hire venue in Eastbourne	July 2008
Exeter	Close SSCSA venue and move to current ET venue in Exeter	March 2008

Note:
A 'daily hire' is a non permanent venue hired when appeal demand for a particular area dictates.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which tribunal venues are scheduled for closure under the Tribunals Service venue rationalisation programme as at 1 June 2008; and what the planned date of each such closure is. [210977]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service has inherited a network of hearing venues of varying quality across the UK, many of which were in the same towns and cities. An examination of venue usage showed a substantial under-utilisation of courtrooms in many areas. The Tribunal Service aims to rationalise this network to unify services and operate more efficiently, by introducing a high quality network of multi-jurisdictional hearing centres which more accurately reflect the varying demand of appeal caseload across the UK.

The proposed future network multi-jurisdictional hearing centres and the associated rationalisation plans have not yet been finalised and are currently subject to internal consultations and funding approval. The internal consultation process is due to be finalised by the end of the summer.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210540]

Mr. Wills: A survey conducted across the Ministry of Justice and a sample of our agencies and non-departmental bodies show variable levels of demand for service provision in the Welsh language, depending in part on the services provided and whether they are provided directly in Wales. The following table gives further information.

In accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993, the Ministry of Justice has prepared a Welsh Language Scheme, which will be put out to public consultation once it has been cleared by the Welsh Language Board. It will be formally adopted, with any necessary changes, after consultation has been completed.

In the period before the Welsh language policy is formally adopted, the Department, in the conduct of its public business in Wales, applies the principle that the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality so far as is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.

Ministry of Justice organisation	*Welsh language service provision*	*Indicator of take-up level in last 12 months*
Ministry of Justice	The draft MoJ Welsh Language Scheme has been prepared and will be put out to public consultation once cleared by the Welsh Language Board.	The Best Value In Probation consultation paper was published on the MoJ website on 9 April 2008 in English and Welsh. Between 9 April 2008 and 11 June 2008 there were: 76 page views of the Welsh consultation paper and 41 page views of the Welsh questionnaire. These compared to 1,824 page views of the English consultation paper pdf and 755 page views of the English questionnaire. To date no requests have been made for hard copies of the Welsh language consultation paper. The consultation exercise will close on 2 July 2008.
Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)	HMCS has its own published Welsh Language Scheme	Most of the HMCS website is available in Welsh. Ensures courts provide sufficient copies of bi-lingual customer information leaflets to meet local demand. Spent £112,000 on Welsh language translations.
Welsh Language Unit, Her Majesty's Courts Service	Provides Welsh translation and interpretation services for HMCS, MoJ and her agencies. Is covered by HMCS Welsh Language Scheme.	Translations completed for HMCS: 1,621. Translations completed for MoJ and her agencies (excluding HMCS): 263. County court cases: 55 cases used Welsh Language interpreters. Bench and associated meetings: Interpreters provided eight times.
National Offender Management Service (formerly HM Prison Service and National Probation Service)	A review is under way of the published NOMS Wales Welsh Language Scheme in light of recent restructuring of NOMS Wales and HM Prison Service into NOMS Cymru. Each probation area in Wales has its own Welsh Language Scheme.	In accordance with an HMPS key audit baseline, the Prisoners' Information Book provided for all prisoners is printed automatically in Welsh (along with other languages) and placed in all prison libraries.
Tribunals Service	Has own published Welsh Language Scheme and Welsh speaking judiciary and administrators. Uses the services of the HMCS Welsh Language Unit.	A small number of requests for Welsh language translations have been received in the period in question. In 2007-08, £9,800 was spent on translations into Welsh.
The Boundary Commission for Wales	Has own Welsh Language Scheme. Publishes documents bilingually in hard copy and on its website.	No telephone calls or correspondence was received in Welsh for the period in question; however £600 was spent on translations into Welsh.
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	Is currently covered by Home Office Welsh Language Scheme.	Have produced many standard publications in Welsh in last 12 months.
Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC)	Is developing/planning to develop its own Welsh Language Scheme. The JAC takes the initiative to translate into Welsh its material on judicial appointments in Wales.	£3,900 spent on translation into Welsh in last 12 months.
The National Archives	Has its own Welsh Language policy. Responsible for Her Majesty's Stationery Office which publishes in Welsh all legislation passed by the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government as part of its statutory responsibilities under the Government of Wales Acts).	There were 16,000 page views on the official legislation website for Wales in (provided in Welsh) between 1 June 2007 and 31 May 2008. This is 4 per cent. of the page views in both languages (total: 369,000). It is difficult to provide data on the level of demand for legislation in other formats (such as hard, printed copies) as they are printed in both English and Welsh within the same document.
Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (AJTC) (formerly Council on Tribunals or CoT)	The Welsh Committee of the AJTC came into being on 1 June 2008. The AJTC is covered by the, MoJ draft Welsh Language Scheme.	No requests received for materials in Welsh in specified period. In June 2007, the CoT ran a conference in Wales at which Welsh language documentation and simultaneous translation were provided in accordance with established conventions.
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	Does not have a Welsh Language Scheme but automatically translates its most important publications into Welsh.	47 Welsh versions sent out of the Guide to the 2001 Compensation Scheme between October 2007 and February 2008.

Ministry of Justice organisation	*Welsh language service provision*	*Indicator of take-up level in last 12 months*
Office of the Public Guardian	Has own Welsh language scheme. Most OPG guidance booklets and the Lasting Power of Attorney forms are provided automatically in Welsh.	No specific requests received for translations into Welsh since OPG established in October 2007.
Law Commission	Is covered by MoJ draft Welsh Language Scheme.	No requests received for Welsh translations of any Law Commission publications.
Youth Justice Board	Has own Welsh Language policy.	Publishes bilingually all strategic documents and service user documentation for use in Wales; the recent YJB national conference had simultaneous translation into Welsh. Conducted a review of Welsh Language service provision in the secure estate and in Youth Offending Teams August 2007 to February 2008.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Finance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much the Child Support Agency paid Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for referrals for income disclosure information in the last year for which figures are available; [209975]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the service level agreement between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Child Support Agency on their data sharing arrangements. [209977]

Mr. Plaskitt: *[holding answer 10, June 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mark Grimshaw, dated 17 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently out of the office on business, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency paid Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for referrals for income disclosure information in the last year for which figures are available. [209975]; and

If he will place in the Library a copy of the service level agreement between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Child Support Agency on their data sharing arrangements. [209977]

The Child Support Agency paid a total of £627,000 to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in 2007/08 to cover the costs associated with information requests relating to the location of a non-resident parent as well as information relating to income. The Agency is unable to identify the costs relating solely to income disclosure.

It is worth noting that the transfer of funds from the Agency ensures both that cross-departmental service is provided at full economic costs in order for value for money to be demonstrated and that all costs associated with administering child maintenance are captured.

There are three service level agreements which relate to data sharing between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Child Support Agency. These provide for information to be shared in respect of Tax Credits, National Insurance Contributions, and by the Debt Management and Banking Division. The latter replaces an earlier agreement with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and is currently in the process of being finalised.

These agreements are reviewed and revised regularly and therefore are liable to significant change over the course of the year. I have therefore arranged for copies of the service level agreements to be forwarded direct to you under separate cover.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people on the minimum wage use electronic childcare vouchers. [210023]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Departmental Advertising

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department's 'No Ifs, No Buts' advertising campaign has cost to date. [210268]

Mrs. McGuire: The Targeting Benefit Thieves campaign, 'No Ifs, No Buts', was launched in October 2006. The following table details spend on the 'No Ifs, No Buts' campaign costs since its inception in 2006.

	£000
	Campaign spend
2006-07	6,568
2006-08	6,374

Notes:

1. Figures given are for actual spend for the Targeting Benefit Thieves (October 2006 to March 2008) campaign.
2. All figures are exclusive of VAT.
3. The figures in this table refer to media spend, design, PR,, production, research and any other associated costs.
4. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

European Skills Assessment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on working towards the European skills assessment. [211268]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

We welcome the 2008 Spring European Council's invitation to the European Commission to conduct a European Skills Review to present a comprehensive assessment of the future skills requirements in Europe up to 2020. We hope the review will help all member states examine and address their future skills challenges and develop their own responses to likely demands. To date, the work with the Commission and other member states to establish the European Skills Review has been carried out during our normal dialogue with these partners, and so has not occurred additional costs.

Jobcentre Plus: Dorset

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what annual savings will result from the withdrawal from 12 May 2008 of access to the week day evening out-of-hours service operated by Jobcentre Plus for his Department's customers in Dorset and Somerset. [206538]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 17 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what annual savings will result from the withdrawal from the 12th May 2008 of access to the week-day evening Out of Hours Service operated by Jobcentre Plus for his Department's customers, in Dorset and Somerset This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

If the level of access to our weekend Out of Hours Service (Saturday and Sunday) in Dorset and Somerset continues at 2007/08 levels, we anticipate a reduction in administrative costs of 28%, amounting to 5,855 per annum.

Jobseekers Allowance: Students

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time students responsible for a child aged under 16 or a young person aged under 20 claimed jobseeker's allowance or income support during the summer vacation from a full-time course of non-advanced education in the last three years for which figures are available. [209530]

Mr. Plaskitt: *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Post Office Card Account

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1845-46W, on the Post Office card account, what the maximum number of outlets where the card account is to be operated is; and if he will make a statement. [208819]

Mr. Plaskitt: *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* There will be no maximum number of outlets at which the successor to the Post Office card account will be available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people hold a Post Office card account, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [211006]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Information showing the number of DWP benefit and pension payment accounts paid into a Post Office card account for each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* training and *(b)* support options are offered to (i) those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance, (ii) those in receipt of incapacity benefit, (iii) those on the new deal for lone parents and (iv) partners of new deal claimants; and for what reasons distinctions are made between the options available to those in each category. [206081]

Mr. Timms: Jobcentre Plus advisers give support and advice to all their customers. This includes, but is not limited to, advice about benefits, vacancies, training possibilities and child care.

Training is provided to Jobcentre Plus customers from a variety of sources including private and voluntary sector providers. The specific training needs of the individual are identified during an interview between the personal adviser and the customer.

Although the route to training may vary between the various client groups (for example new deal 25 plus, pathways to work, new deal for lone parents) the broad range of training is available to all. Advisers will tailor training towards the particular needs of the individual to ensure that they maximise their chances of returning to employment.

The support available to each client group is tailored towards the type of specialist help and support they need based upon available resources. This support has been developed over time, either as a result of the evaluation of what individuals need, or by the evaluation of the effectiveness of programmes and pilots, in helping these client groups to enter, remain in and progress in work.

Further information can be found at the Jobcentre Plus website,

www.jobcentreplus.co.uk.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of unclaimed means-tested *(a)* benefits, *(b)* pension credit, *(c)* disability related allowances and *(d)* attendance allowance was in each of the last three years. [209755]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the value of unclaimed means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based), are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". A copy of this report, along with past reports, has been placed in the Library.

Estimates for means-tested disability related allowances and attendance allowance are not available.

Social Security Benefits: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children lived in households where at least one person was claiming *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* job seeker's allowance at the latest date for which figures are available. [198783]

Mr. Timms: The most recent available information is in the table. It is important to note that these categories overlap; if the claimant is in receipt of more than one of the benefits listed, a child will appear in each relevant category. This means that the three categories cannot be added together to calculate the overall number and proportion of children living in households which are in receipt of these benefits. The figures also include children in households where people are both in receipt of benefit and working.

Children dependent on a parent or guardian claiming income support (IS), incapacity benefit (IB), and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) as at April 2007

	Dependent children aged 0-15	*Proportion of dependent children aged 0-15*
Parent/guardian claiming IS	1,805,575	16.2
Parent/guardian claiming IB	570,210	5.1
Parent/guardian claiming JSA	164,550	1.5

Notes:
1. All caseload figures supplied have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Information is for a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will, therefore, exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Data represents children dependent on a parent or guardian who is claiming incapacity benefit, jobseekers allowance, or income support.
4. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system therefore children have been merged onto benefit claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
5. If the claimant is in receipt of more than one of the benefits listed a child will appear in each relevant category.
6. The total number of children with child benefit aged 0-15 has been used as percentage denominators

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

The number and proportion of children whose parent or guardian is in receipt of one or more of these benefits is presented in the following table. The figures also include children in households where people are both in receipt of benefit and working. This data therefore differ from those used to measure progress against the public service agreement target for children in workless households, which is measured using the Labour Force survey. Since 1997 the proportion of children living in workless households in Great Britain has fallen from 18.7 per cent. to 16 per cent. in quarter 2 of 2007, which is a reduction of 405,000.

Children dependent on a parent or guardian claiming income support (IS), incapacity benefit (IB), or jobseeker's allowance (JSA) as at April 2007

	Dependent children aged 0-15	*Proportion of dependent children aged 0-15*
Parent/guardian claiming one or more of IS, IB and JSA	2,189,960	19.7

Notes:
1. All caseload figures supplied have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Information is for a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will, therefore, exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Data represents children dependent on a parent or guardian who is claiming incapacity benefit, jobseekers allowance, or income support.
4. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system therefore children have been merged onto benefit claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.
5. The total number of children with child benefit aged 0-15 has been used as percentage denominators.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each London borough were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of benefit fraud offences in each of the last five years; and what the cost of pursuing such prosecutions was. [210269]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding DWP-administered benefits is not available below national and regional level.

The available information regarding the local authority administered benefits, housing benefit and council tax benefit, is in the following tables.

Total number of cases accepted for prosecution

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking	0	1	15	11	9
Barnet	14	30	26	27	21
Bexley	24	31	23	31	26
Brent	10	15	36	54	30
Bromley	4	18	30	35	34
Camden	1	9	5	22	2
City of London	1	0	0	0	0
Croydon	8	39	20	17	33
Ealing	27	41	34	41	15
Enfield	0	9	62	75	30
Greenwich	17	31	48	68	39
Hackney	5	0	35	14	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	13	40	39	50	33
Haringey	12	11	38	19	4
Harrow	2	3	16	20	32
Havering	6	13	14	18	23
Hillingdon	15	34	13	9	15
Hounslow	13	13	10	18	21
Islington	15	14	18	19	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	0	15	12	36	n/a
Kingston upon Thames	0	6	5	9	2
Lambeth	0	47	22	49	61
Lewisham	17	29	42	79	n/a
Merton	0	2	3	5	7
Newham	19	56	32	12	10
Redbridge	62	32	35	52	15

Total number of cases accepted for prosecution

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Richmond upon Thames	4	4	1	3	13
Southwark	17	38	31	39	50
Sutton	20	13	14	16	8
Tower Hamlets	2	2	5	14	34
Waltham Forest	7	17	29	45	16
Wandsworth	18	15	13	19	12
Westminster	17	24	23	18	n/a

Total number of guilty verdicts obtained

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking	0	1	7	3	12
Barnet	11	18	18	27	26
Bexley	22	19	15	26	22
Brent	9	14	13	43	26
Bromley	3	10	14	21	32
Camden	2	9	4	15	7
City of London	1	0	0	0	0
Croydon	7	17	16	13	19
Ealing	18	36	25	30	37
Enfield	0	6	54	55	40
Greenwich	23	27	45	59	36
Hackney	3	0	12	6	37
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	21	37	32	46
Haringey	10	11	24	25	10
Harrow	1	0	7	15	26
Havering	1	10	15	10	20
Hillingdon	15	34	13	9	15
Hounslow	9	11	9	6	15
Islington	14	11	6	17	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	0	8	7	23	25
Kingston upon Thames	0	3	6	5	3
Lambeth	0	13	31	39	28
Lewisham	16	18	35	46	n/a
Merton	0	2	3	3	9
Newham	11	37	29	23	n/a
Redbridge	38	35	26	35	26
Richmond upon Thames	2	1	2	3	13
Southwark	8	22	28	30	49
Sutton	15	10	12	10	11
Tower Hamlets	1	1	2	13	26
Waltham Forest	4	12	24	30	17
Wandsworth	17	14	11	10	17
Westminster	13	14	15	14	n/a

n/a = data not available

Note:

Data on costs in pursuing these prosecutions is not available.

Source:

Estimates are based on Stats 124 administrative data returns.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Benefit Fraud Hotline and associated services cost in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [206007]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

National benefit fraud hotline costs

	£
2002-03	876,000
2003-04	935,000
2004-05	1,136,000
2005-06	1,213,000
2006-07	1,350,000

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
2. The costs above are for the national benefit fraud hotline (NBFHL) and related services. These are in nominal terms.
3. The costs for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are the same as the costs used in a recent NAO report on the benefit fraud hotline.
4. At the start of 2005-06, Jobcentre Plus implemented a new accounting system for recording any costs from 2005-06 onwards. The costs for 2004-05 and prior years have therefore been extracted using archived data sources from a closed accounting system.
5. The costs above include staff and non staff costs. Non staff costs primarily include telephony related costs.
6. The national benefit fraud hotline was transferred to the contact centre directorate in 2005-06. The reported costs will therefore include the effect of any re-organisation to NBFHL over the last five reported years.

Source:

National benefit fraud hotline.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Armed Forces: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, Official Report, columns 1447-8W, on Armed Forces: Influenza, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of the meetings of the (i) MISC 32 Flu Working Group and (ii) the Pandemic Implementation Group. [208986]

Mr. Watson: Information relating to the proceedings of the MISC 32 Cabinet Committee and the Pandemic Flu Implementation Group is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion and the formulation or development of Government policy.

Civil Servants: Holiday Leave

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many privilege holidays civil servants in the Cabinet Office are entitled to; and on what days of the year. [210873]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office civil servants are entitled to 2.5 privilege day holidays annually. These are normally taken on

Maundy Thursday afternoon.

The Tuesday after the late May bank holiday to mark the Queen's official birthday.

The last working day before Christmas Day or the first working day after Boxing Day.

Cabinet Office civil servants can arrange with their managers to work an alternative day within 12 months of the designated day if, for example, they wish to use their Christmas or Maundy Thursday privilege day entitlement for other religious festivals.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many times his Department was found to be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 by the Information Commissioner in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [208760]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office has not been found in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 by the Information Commissioner in any of the last five years.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of staff in the Prime Minister's Office are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208399]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The latest available data on the disability status and ethnic background of civil servants in the Cabinet Office are as at 30 September 2006 and are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as 'Civil Service Statistics 2006'. This can be accessed from the following web-site address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary. The latest available data on the gender of civil servants are as at 31 December 2007 and are also published by ONS, as part of its wider Quarterly Public Sector Employment Statistics (QPSES). This can be accessed via the following web-site address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0308.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Information on civil servants' sexual orientation is not currently compiled or published.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost was of employer contributions for each public-sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility in each year since 1990-91; and if he will make a statement. [200748]

Mr. Watson: Since the introduction of resource accounting in 1999-2000, the amount of the employer contributions made is published each year in the resource accounts of Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. The amount of the employer contributions made for the years 1995-1996 (when the Cabinet Office became the scheme manager) to 1998-1999 is available in the Cabinet Office Appropriation Accounts, copies of which are also available in the Library of the House.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public-sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [200750]

Mr. Watson: The cash equivalent transfer value for the Department's most senior staff is set out in the departmental resource accounts that are published on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/annualreport.aspx.

Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what proportion of the staff of the Prime Minister's Office vocational training has been provided in the last three years. [209438]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office is committed to giving all its employees equal access to learning and development opportunities, and all staff are entitled to a minimum of five days' development each year.

Intelligence Services: Data Protection

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether any officials of *(a)* M15, *(b)* M16 and *(c)* the Special Branch (i) have been suspended and (ii) have resigned following the loss of secret papers on 10 June 2008; [211531]

(2) following the loss of secret papers on 10 June 2008, if he will improve the arrangements for parliamentary scrutiny and oversight of the security and intelligence services; and if he will make a statement; [211532]

(3) if he will make a statement on the loss of secret papers on 10 June 2008. [211533]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made in the House on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 485-494.

Migration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the percentage change in net UK migration was in each of the last three years. [211983]

Mr. Watson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about the percentage change in net UK migration in each of the last three years. (211983)

The annual percentage changes, in UK immigration, emigration and net migration, are shown in the table below:

	Inflow		*Outflow*		*Net migration*	
	Number	*Percentage change*	*Number*	*Percentage change*	*Number*	*Percentage change*[1]
2003	508	—	-361	—	147	—
2004	586	15	-342	-5	244	66
2005	563	-4	-359	5	204	-16
2006	591	5	-400	11	191	-6

[1] When analysing migration, ONS seeks to avoid using percentage changes in net migration, instead preferring to quote percentage changes of immigration and emigration data separately. Percentages based on the differences between immigration and emigration can give a misleading impression of the scale of change, particularly when net migration in the base year in the calculation is close to zero.

These are the latest available official estimates.

Parliament: By-Elections

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance exists on the conduct of civil servants, special advisers and Ministers during a parliamentary by-election period. [210862]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Secretary wrote to Departments on 8 May 2008 reminding them of the principles that apply to a constituency where a parliamentary by-election is taking place. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210550]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has recently reviewed the need to translate material into Welsh to inform its discussions with the Welsh Language Board about its Welsh language policy.

Consideration is given to translating material into Welsh by the Cabinet Office and its non-departmental bodies when their activities in Wales involve direct dealings with the public. For example, the forms, publication and web pages associated with the recent campaign to encourage people to nominate ordinary people for honours were made available in Welsh.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 18 June 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210992]

David Cairns: The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the structure of the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use. A copy of the chart has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 13-14W, on official hospitality, how many individuals and organisations attended each event listed. [210924]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not have records of the number of individuals or organisations who have attended past events.

Joint Ministerial Committee

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times he has met *(a)* the First Minister of Scotland, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales, *(c)* the Secretary of State for Justice and *(d)* the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to discuss the operation of the Joint Ministerial Committee since 16 May 2007. [210352]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State regularly meets with other ministerial colleagues and discusses a range of issues, he has also met with the First Minister. Last month, I attended a preliminary meeting with the Secretary of State for Wales and the First Minister in advance of the forthcoming Joint Ministerial plenary meeting.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212121]

David Cairns: No Scotland Office Ministers or officials will be attending the games.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Millennium Dome: Expenditure

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost to the public purse was of the construction and operation of the millennium dome; what assessment he has made of the value for money provided by that expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [210816]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost to the public purse of the construction and operation of the millennium dome was nil. The construction and operation of the dome was funded from national lottery grant from the Millennium Commission and income from ticket sales and sponsorship, not from Exchequer funding.

It is a matter of public record that the dome was completed on time, that the final cost was just 4 per cent. over budget, that it was by far the most visited paying attraction in the UK in the year 2000 and that it helped regenerate a wide area.

I am advised that English Partnerships spent £33 million of Exchequer funding on decommissioning and maintenance of the millennium dome structure between 1999 and June 2007, with the expectation that these costs will be recovered from sale proceeds from the contract for the future use of the dome and redevelopment of associated land over the life of the project.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Democratic Unionist Party

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a list of meetings he attended with hon. and right hon. Members from the *(a)* Democratic Unionist Party and *(b)* Ulster Unionist Party, including those meetings at which no civil servants were present, between 31 March 2008 and 11 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [212124]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular meetings and discussions with the Northern Ireland political parties and others on a wide range of subjects.

PRIME MINISTER

Democratic Unionist Party

Simon Hughes: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a list of meetings he attended with hon. and right hon. Members from the *(a)* Democratic Unionist Party and *(b)* Ulster Unionist Party, including those meetings at which no civil servants were present, between 31 March 2008 and 11 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [212122]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within mainland Britain by representatives of Downing street in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [210945]

The Prime Minister: The information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the conferences hosted by No. 10 Downing street in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211681]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1107-1110W.

Information on Official and Charity receptions for 2007-08 will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Departmental Film

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many films have been produced in *(a)* video, *(b)* DVD and *(c)* other digital formats by Downing street in the last 24 months; and what the title was of each film. [210893]

The Prime Minister: Films produced by my Office are available on the Downing street YouTube channel:

http://www.youtube.com/DowningSt.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on departmental manpower, (1) if he will break down by pay grade members of staff listed; [211875]

(2) how many people are employed in the *(a)* speech writing unit, *(b)* international unit and *(c)* direct communications unit in No. 10 Downing street. [211891]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many Downing street identity cards or departmental passes have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months. [210890]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether Downing street has a dress code for staff. [210813]

The Prime Minister: Staff are expected to abide by the Civil Service Code; it does not include a formal dress code.

Henley-on-Thames

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit Henley-on-Thames. [210066]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many copies of the *Morning Star* publication his Office procures on subscription each week; and at what cost. [210932]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 3 June, *Official Report*, column 839W.

Official Residences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which official residences are unoccupied; and what the annual cost of maintenance is of each residence; [211777]

(2) which official residences are occupied; and by which minister in each case. [211778]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) and the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Expenditure on official residences is a matter for the relevant Department.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many officials from No. 10 Downing street plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost; [212126]

(2) whether he will attend the Beijing Olympic Games. [212127]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave at my monthly press conference on 1 April 2008. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15167.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for 2008-09 will be published in the normal way.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Evans: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with his Irish counterpart following the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement; [212097]

(2) what plans he has to ratify the treaty of Lisbon; [212098]

(3) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the President of the European Commission and *(b)* other members of the European Commission following the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [212099]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband) on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 704, and my answers at Prime Minister's questions today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Capital Punishment

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he holds on the number of executions which took place internationally in 2007, broken down by *(a)* country and *(b)* sex; and if he will make a statement. [211266]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold figures on executions that have taken place around the world. Amnesty International publishes information on the minimum number of executions by country. These are available online at:

http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ACT50/001/2008/en/b43a1e5a-ffea-11dc-b092-bdb020617d3d/act500012008eng.html.

The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances. We have demonstrated our opposition to capital punishment by raising the issue of the death penalty with third countries and playing a key role in the successful adoption of a resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty at the UN General Assembly in 2007.

Further details of the FCO's work on the death penalty can be found in our 2007 Human Rights annual report at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/conflict/human-rights/human-rights-your-say.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* EU partners and *(b)* the European Commission on the CAP common agricultural policy reform health check announced on 20 May 2008. [208816]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and I, as well as officials at the UK Representation in Brussels and across our European network, are in regular contact with EU partners and the European Commission on a full range of issues.

The Government's position on the common agricultural policy (CAP) health check is well established. We welcomed the publication of the health check proposals as a further step in the process of reforming the CAP. We are seeking an ambitious outcome that further cuts the trade distorting nature of the CAP, which has contributed to high food prices. We want reduced regulatory burdens to give farmers greater control over their business decisions and redirect more CAP spending away from direct farm payments towards delivery of targeted public benefits.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210577]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office offers a broad range of training opportunities for staff including courses on professional skills for Government, leadership, management and diversity as well as language and functional training. I will write to the hon. Member with a detailed list and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many facilities for video conferencing his Department has; how much it cost to install them; how much it cost to *(a)* run and *(b)* maintain them in the last year for which figures are available; how many times the facilities have been used (i) since installation and (ii) in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [209920]

David Miliband: There are approximately 160 video conference sets deployed in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) premises in the UK and around the world, with a further 18 planned for installation during the next few months. The most recent project delivered 76 sets at a total cost of £2.13 million, or approximately £28,000 each, including purchase, freight and installation.

The sets are connected to the FCO's own telecommunications system and incur no specific additional transmission charge. Hitherto, the cost of maintenance has been subsumed within the FCO's annual telephony support charge and is not separately identifiable. The support arrangement for the future is being negotiated at the moment. Until this is agreed a precise figure cannot be given, but is expected to be less than 10 per cent. of the initial cost per annum.

Prior to September 2007, the software necessary to monitor usage was not available to the FCO. The figures recorded since then, for the recently installed sets, are given in the following table:

Month	*Total hours of usage over network*
September 2007	268
October 2007	368
November 2007	491
December 2007	282
January 2008	491
February 2008	545
March 2008	405
April 2008	630
Total	3,480

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2568W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fair Trade products. [211568]

Meg Munn: Expenditure on refreshments can be identified only by examining individual transactions in the UK and at overseas posts for the periods concerned. The information requested is not held centrally and could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gaza: Overseas Students

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the case of Mr. Wissam Abuajwa of Gaza; and what steps he is taking to enable Mr. Abuajwa to take up his place to study in the UK. [210734]

Meg Munn: The UK is concerned that students due to study in the UK have been unable to obtain permission to leave Gaza. We have raised the issue with the Israeli authorities on a number of occasions and will continue to do so.

As this issue also affects our European partners, we lobby Israel jointly—through the European Commission—on all such individual cases. Wissam Abuajwa's case is one of those we are collectively raising with the Israeli authorities.

Iran: Prisoners

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made any representations to the government of Iran on the detention of Dr Frood Fouladvand. [211158]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports that Dr. Frood Fouladvand, an Iranian national resident in the UK, has been detained in Iran. On 31 May our ambassador in Tehran sought clarification of this matter in a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our embassy in Tehran followed this up with a Note Verbale on 1 June. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Political Director also raised Dr. Fouladvand's case in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador on 4 June. We will continue to follow this issue closely.

Iran: Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which representations he plans to make to the EU following plans to de-proscribe the People's Mujahadeen Organisation of Iran. [211989]

Meg Munn: We have informed EU partners of the steps my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is taking to de-proscribe the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran (PMOI) following the judgment by the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission and the Court of Appeal.

We are in discussion with EU partners about the implications of the de-proscription of the PMOI in the UK for the listing of the PMOI under EU Common Position 931.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Government contracts with British and Iraqi contractors comply with British and international law and are publicly accountable and transparent; and if he will make a statement. [211189]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not able to comment on contracts with British and Iraqi contractors held by other Government Departments.

All FCO contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice. The same rigorous process is followed in the contract management and performance monitoring of these contracts, through a combination of local in-country management and UK-based support.

Contracts awarded for FCO estate works projects in Iraq are based on standard Government forms of contract which are subject to English law and jurisdiction. In general, these act in harmony with international laws to produce a code of conduct which binds contractors, both explicitly and implicitly, to the code during execution of the contract agreements.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of those employed by his Department, other than those engaged locally, hold language qualifications in *(a)* Arabic, *(b)* Farsi, *(c)* Dari or Pashto, *(d)* Mandarin, *(e)* Swahili and *(f)* Japanese. [209382]

David Miliband: The following table shows the total number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff employed as of June 2008 that have a qualification in the languages specified which is recorded on the FCO management information system. Staff will have varying degrees of fluency in these languages:

Language	*Total number of FCO staff with a language qualification recorded on the FCO management information system (June 2008)*
Arabic	263
Farsi	21
Dari or Pashto	7
Mandarin	122
Swahili	36
Japanese	153

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 3W, on nuclear disarmament, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research undertaken on verification of multilateral nuclear disarmament by AWE the Atomic Weapons Establishment in partnership with Norway and Vertic; and what the cost was of the contract with the International Institute for Strategic Studies to which reference is made. [211941]

Meg Munn: The Atomic Weapons Establishment reported to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in May on the progress of their work to date and the future direction of their studies. I will place a copy of this report in the Library of the House.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided £10,000 last financial year to support the study by the International Institute for Strategic Studies through a technical workshop. We are also prepared to offer funding for a launch event and discussion in Geneva in September.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the Government of Pakistan on the use of blasphemy laws against religious minorities; and if he will make a statement. [211250]

Meg Munn: At the UN Human Rights Council in May, the UK asked about measures to safeguard the rights of minorities in Pakistan. In reply, the Pakistani delegation reaffirmed their commitment to introduce checks to prevent abuse of the blasphemy law.

Papua: Political Prisoners

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the detention of *(a)* Filep Karma, *(b)* Yusak Pakage and *(c)* other political prisoners in West Papua; what steps he has taken as a result of those reports; and if he will make a statement. [210721]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the detention of Filep Karma and Yusak Pakage. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Novak's report, following his visit to Indonesia in 2007, includes evidence from Filep Karma and Yusak Pakage on their detention. Officials from our embassy in Jakarta have previously raised their detention with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their defence lawyer has told embassy officials that prison conditions were adequate and the two men had been treated reasonably.

Embassy officials continue to follow closely the cases of those convicted of flag-raising and other political activities in Papua. We have urged the Government of Indonesia to uphold the rights guaranteed through the International Conventions on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Indonesia in September 2005.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Irish counterpart since the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [212095]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in close contact with his Irish counterpart since the result of the referendum and spoke with him in the margins of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg on 16 June.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the (i) President of the European Commission and (ii) other members of the European Commission following the result of the referendum in the Republic of Ireland on the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [212096]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement to the House on 16 June on the result of the referendum in Ireland on the Lisbon treaty. The statement followed discussions with his counterparts at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg on the same day.

There will be a meeting of the European Council from!9-20 June.

Timor-Leste: Crimes Against Humanity

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Indonesian Government to ascertain the status of Colonel Burhanuddin Siagian following his indictment on 3 February 2003 by the United Nations Special Panel for Serious Crimes in Dili, East Timor, for crimes against humanity. [210715]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to hold discussions with the Indonesian Government on the status of Indonesian Colonel Burhanuddin Siagian. We believe that it is for the Indonesian and East Timorese Governments to pursue the indictment by the UN Special Panel for Serious Crimes.

The UK has consistently expressed concern to both the Indonesian and East Timorese Governments about impunity for those responsible for human rights abuses in East Timor. These issues are pursued through their bilateral Commission for Truth and Friendship. We have encouraged both Governments to make the Commission for Truth and Friendship a process that enjoys the confidence of the victims and the international community.

Uzbekistan: Forced Labour

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what report his Department has received of forced labour in Uzbekistan; and what representations his Department has made to Uzbek authorities on this matter. [211892]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK remains seriously concerned about allegations of the use of forced child labour in the cotton sector in Uzbekistan. The UK has raised its concerns through the EU and has discussed the issue with the Uzbek government. Most recently, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised concerns with the Uzbek Government during a visit to Tashkent in May 2008. This followed a meeting earlier this year between our ambassador in Tashkent and the Uzbek Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, which focused on cotton and child labour issues. We have also raised child labour and cotton issues with the local UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative. The UK supports calls from UNICEF and the International Labour Organisation for a "participatory assessment" involving the International Cotton Association and a number of embassies in Tashkent, which would be open to the media.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210544]

Meg Munn: While the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have a unified Welsh language policy, it does have a general language policy which ensures that FCO publications and communications enter into the spirit of the Welsh Language Act 1993.

The FCO has published a number of documents over the past few years in Welsh. These include an explanatory handbook on the EU, a booklet on foreign policy and flyers describing the FCO's activities during outreach events in Wales. A Welsh language version of the Consular Guide is available electronically on the FCO website alongside several other language versions.

On 10 July 2007 my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy) wrote to my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Wales Office, (Huw Irranca-Davies), to explain that while the FCO does recognise the importance of the Welsh language we do not have the resources to ensure that any changes to FCO Travel Advice, which is updated regularly, would appear simultaneously in different languages.

The FCO has access to translation services and can deal with correspondence in Welsh. Our Ministerial Correspondence Unit last received correspondence in Welsh in 2005.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to Zimbabwean officials on the arrest of leaders of the Movement for Democratic Change; and if he will make a statement. [211193]

Meg Munn: We have told the government of Zimbabwe we strongly condemn the ongoing violence and intimidation against all Zimbabweans. Following the recent arrest of Morgan Tsvangirai and other opposition leaders, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement calling for their immediate release. We continue to stress that all candidates and supporters should be allowed to participate safely and fully in the electoral process.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W on biofuels, how much of the £720,000 spent on research and development into biogas production has been spent in Wales. [210913]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA only provides grants for projects in England. Any funding spent in Wales is a devolved matter and for the Welsh Assembly Government to decide upon.

All of the waste and resources action programme's (WRAP) research and development into biogas production has been based in England. However, the findings of WRAP'S research are pertinent to the whole of the UK and have been disseminated in Wales.

WRAP Wales are supporting operational anaerobic digestion (AD) projects in Wales (through Welsh Assembly Government-funded capital competitions), and working closely with the AD Centre of Excellence at the university of Glamorgan, to ensure that emerging best practice is incorporated.

Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations his Department *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold on the definition of zero carbon. [211641]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 981W.

Climate Change Bill

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discount rate was used *(a)* to calculate net present value of costs and benefits of the Climate Change Bill in the final impact assessment and *(b)* to calculate costs and benefits of mitigating climate change in the Economics of Climate Change by Professor Stern. [211981]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 17 June 2008]:* The Climate Change Bill Final Impact Assessment complied with the Better Regulation Executive's guidance on development of Impact Assessments. This states that HM Treasury's discount rates should be applied, as set out in their publication "Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government—The Green Book". The Green Book sets out a declining discounting schedule which discounts costs and benefits for the first 30 years at 3.5 per cent. per annum, and costs and benefits for years 30 to 60 at 3 per cent. per annum.

Professor Stern's review did not apply a single rate of discount, but rather calculated the discount rate endogenously within the analysis, varying according to the scenario.

Climate Change: Arctic

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has evaluated on trends in the area of Arctic sea ice in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [211213]

Mr. Woolas: The Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC) undertakes research on trends in the area of Arctic sea ice, on behalf of DEFRA, through its Integrated Climate Programme. Within this programme, which is jointly funded by DEFRA and the Ministry of Defence, trends in the area of Arctic sea ice in the last 10 years were assessed as part of a comparison between modelled estimates of the minimum extent of summer sea ice and corresponding satellite records, for the period 1979 to 2006.

The satellite observation record shows a long-term decline in ice extent at all times of the year over recent decades, which has accelerated in the last decade; with record summer lows in 2001, 2005 and now, 2007 (at 4.13 million km^2, some 2.5 million km^2 less than a decade ago). Last year's record low in summer sea ice extent was partly explained by unusually mild weather conditions and warm sea temperatures. Most climate models underestimate this ongoing decline, but some with more sophisticated sea ice physics appear able to capture the general trend (but not recent dramatic seasonal falls in sea ice extent). The MOHC model, even though doing better than most other climate models in representing the long term decline, only predicted a drop of about 0.5 million km^2 in summer sea ice extent over the last decade.

The strong year-to-year variability (due to short term weather factors) superimposed on this downward trend in summer sea ice area, means it is difficult to compare a single annual observed value with a long term trend in model simulations.

Floods: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many houses have been identified as being at risk of flooding greater than once in 75 years in England; [211437]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of houses that will receive improved standards of flood protection funded by his Department *(a)* over the next three years and *(b)* within the duration of his 20 year plan on flooding; [211438]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of houses which will remain at significant risk of flooding at the end of the current spending review period; and what proposals he has to protect occupiers of such houses within his 20 year plan on flooding. [211439]

Mr. Woolas: The last complete national flood risk assessment, in 2006, indicated that there were 393,000 residential properties at significant probability (probability greater than one in 75) of flooding in England.

The proposed minimum target for the capital programme over the three years of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period (April 2008 to March 2011) is for 145,000 households to have an improved standard of protection against flooding or coastal erosion.

During this period, the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards will collectively deliver a programme to remove 45,000 households in England from the significant flood risk band.

The Environment Agency is developing a long term investment strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. A 25 year strategy will identify the policies and funding needed to achieve further improvements in flood and coastal risk, together with ways to deliver these. The strategy will be published in spring 2009.

Floods: Sewers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the resilience of sewage treatment works to flooding. [211538]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has identified nearly 5,000 sites located in areas in England and Wales assessed by the agency as having an annual probability of flooding of one in 75 or greater. These include 737 sewage and water treatment works. This is a cautious estimate and does not take into account the specific ground elevations and other particular local factors.

The operators of this infrastructure are responsible for contingency planning to ensure continuity of service in the event of hazards such as flooding. The Environment Agency makes available its information to help operators carry out the necessary risk assessments. The Environment Agency has also contributed to Ofwat's development of a methodology to enable water companies to assess asset resilience, with a view to informing the water company draft business plans for the next five year planning period.

In his interim review of last year's flooding Sir Michael Pitt recommended that local resilience fora assess the vulnerability to flooding of critical infrastructure in their areas. The Environment Agency is helping with that assessment.

We do recognise and share the concerns expressed in the Pitt interim Review about the resilience of critical infrastructure to flooding. We will consider whether any further action is necessary in the light of the final Pitt recommendations due later this month.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the environmental effects of the non-implementation of EC regulation 2037/2000 on ozone-depleting substances. [211068]

Mr. Woolas: EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer is directly applicable in the UK and other member states of the EU. Offences and penalties for failure to comply with its provisions in Great Britain are prescribed in the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/528) and the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/91).

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters of 25 February and 6 May 2008 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West regarding his constituent Mr. I. Firth. [210735]

Mr. Woolas: You originally wrote to this Department on 26 November 2007 regarding your constituent. My officials replied to your office on 22 January 2008 to advise that the correspondence had been transferred to the Scottish Executive. After you wrote to the Department on 25 February 2008, one of my officials telephoned your office to confirm that the correspondence had been transferred.

Reservoirs

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new reservoirs have been constructed in England and Wales since water privatisation. [211327]

Mr. Woolas: As the enforcement authority in England and Wales for the Reservoirs Act 1975, the Environment Agency maintains a register of all large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000 m^3 or greater above natural ground level.

Since water privatisation in 1989, 244 large raised reservoirs have been constructed, 232 of these in England and 12 in Wales. 37 of these reservoirs are owned by water companies, 25 of which are service reservoirs and 12 of which are 'raw water' supply reservoirs.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member of East Surrey of 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1067W, on biofuels, what estimate she has made of the cost of the Renewable Fuels Agency's review of the indirect impacts of biofuel production; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the Agency of *(a)* the work of (i) Agency staff and (ii) external advisers on the review and *(b)* the printing and publication of the report. [210246]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 June 2008]:* It is currently estimated that the total cost of the review that is being led by the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) will be £264,000 inclusive of VAT (see following table). Of this amount it is expected that £218,000 will be spent on work carried out by external consultants. This includes their contributing towards expert studies of evidence, evaluation of production scenarios and engaging with international stakeholders through seminars and workshop events as part of the necessary evidence gathering process. An estimate of the RFA staff costs incurred by the review has not yet been made. We anticipate that the report will be made available electronically.

Item	*Estimated cost (to nearest £000)*
External consultancy	218,000
Expert seminars	43,000
Stakeholder workshops	3,000
Total	264,000

Bus Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bus operating companies are owned by a parent company which also owns a train operating company. [209256]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport does not keep central data on individual bus companies and their parent groups. However, to the best of our knowledge, the following bus companies operating in Great Britain are owned by the parent groups Arriva, First, Go-Ahead, National Express, Stagecoach and Keolis, all of which also own train operating companies (please note that trading names within these companies sometimes differ):

Arriva bus operations

- Arriva London
- Arriva Midlands
- Arriva North East
- Arriva Northumbria
- Arriva North West and Wales
- Arriva Scotland West
- Arriva Shires and Essex
- Arriva Southern Counties
- Arriva Yorkshire
- Centrebus Holdings
- Green Line
- The Original Tour
- The Heritage Fleet

First bus operations

First Aberdeen
First Berkshire & The Thames Valley
First Bradford
First Bristol
First Calderdale and Huddersfield
First Chester and The Wirral
First Cymru
First Devon and Cornwall
First Eastern Counties
First Edinburgh
First Essex
First Glasgow
First Hampshire and Dorset
First Leeds
First Leicester
First London
First Manchester
First Midland Red Buses Limited First Northampton
First Potteries
First Somerset and Avon
First South Yorkshire
First York

Go-Ahead bus operations

Go South Coast
Brighton and Hove Bus and Coach Company
Go North East
London Central
London General
Metrobus
Oxford Bus Company

National Express bus operations

National Express Dundee
G&N Wishart
National Express London
National Express Surrey
National Express West Midlands
National Express Coventry

Stagecoach bus operations

Stagecoach Cambridgeshire
Stagecoach Devon
Stagecoach East
Stagecoach East Midlands
Stagecoach East Scotland
Stagecoach North East
Stagecoach North West
Stagecoach Merseyside
Stagecoach Sheffield
Stagecoach South East
Stagecoach Oxfordshire
Stagecoach Wales or Stagecoach de Cymru / South Wales
Stagecoach in Warwickshire
Stagecoach West
Stagecoach West Scotland
Stagecoach Yorkshire

Keolis bus operations

Eastbourne Buses

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been provided by her Department to the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive to support the provision of bus passes for free travel to all elderly and disabled people in Greater Manchester. [209928]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have provided £10.519 million through special grant to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive in 2008-09 to fund the improvement to England-wide for the statutory minimum concession. This is in addition to funding for concessionary travel through formula grant. The special grant funding represents a 20 per cent. increase on the amount spent on concessionary travel in Greater Manchester in 2006-07, the most recent year for which spend on concessionary travel is available.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse of subsidising bus services was in each year since 1986. [210708]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The following table shows the total cost of subsidising bus services in each year since 1986-87.

	All support (£ million)
1986-87	847
1987-88	794
1988-89	822
1989-90	808
1990-91	884
1991-92	976
1992-93	993
1993-94	903
1994-95	921
1995-96	911
1996-97	896
1997-98	881
1998-99	986
1999-2000	1,082
2000-01	1,168
2001-02	1,358
2002-03	1,605
2003-04	1,874
2004-05	1,938
2005-06	2,122
2006-07	2,452

Subsidy for local bus services includes bus service operators' grant, public transport support and concessionary fare reimbursement by local authorities.

Bus Services: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in bus fares in *(a)* passenger transport executive areas, *(b)* other urban areas, *(c)* London and *(d)* other areas of England was from one year to the next in each year since 1986. [210710]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The following table shows the percentage change in local bus fares in each year from 1985-86 to 2006-07 for

England, London, Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) areas and other areas. Data are not available for the urban/other split requested.

Percentage

	London	*English PTE areas*	*English non-PTE areas*	*England*
1986-87	6	27	5	11
1987-88	5	9	5	6
1988-89	11	6	5	6
1989-90	10	8	8	8
1990-91	10	11	10	10
1991-92	10	12	8	9
1992-93	8	7	4	6
1993-94	8	5	3	5
1994-95	6	4	4	5
1995-96	5	5	4	5
1996-97	4	5	5	5
1997-98	4	6	5	5
1998-99	4	5	5	4
1999-00	3	5	5	4
2000-01	0	4	5	4
2001-02	-2	5	5	4
2002-03	-1	4	5	3
2003-04	2	4	5	4
2004-05	8	4	5	6
2005-06	10	8	7	8
2006-07	8	1	-4	0

Bus Services: Greater London

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will discuss with Transport for London the absence of bus stops along the western side of Parliament street near Whitehall and ask for this situation to be rectified. [211851]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The temporary absence of bus stops on the western side of Parliament street has been due to extensive street works associated with the Whitehall Streetscape Improvement project. These are being carried out by Westminster city council on behalf of the Cabinet Office and other Government Departments in the area. The project involves major improvements to the highway including the incorporation of enhanced security measures.

Westminster city council has consulted Transport for London and London Buses at all stages of the project. Work on the western side of Parliament street is now almost complete and buses are once again stopping in the area.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208524]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the requested information, where recorded. Spend on overseas mail is not separately recorded for the following Department for Transport organisations: Marine Accident Investigation Branch, Driving Standards Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Department for Transport London HQ							
Speedmail/DHL Global	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	4,042	[2]800	9,863	4,007
Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Farnborough							
TNT International	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,395.53	1,974.50
FedEx Express	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	393.95	442.44
Rail Accident Investigation Branch, Derby							
Royal Mail	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	[3]n/a	0	0	0	324.45
Vehicle Certification Agency, Bristol							
Royal Mail	7,260	9,350	8,584	5,500	4,400	7,480	5,940
DHL	4,026	5,540	5,719	8,833	8,818	6,029	[4]15,840

[1] Not recorded.

[2] Estimated.

[3] Rail Accident Investigation Branch became operational on 17 October 2005.

[4] Includes one off costs of £7,205.79 incurred in shipping of branded stationery and promotional material associated with the opening of Vehicle Certification Agency India office.

Departmental Publications

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on models and photography for internal and external Departmental publications in the last 12 months. [211406]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of models used for the photographs in the Department for Transport annual report 2008. [211407]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Nil.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on photographs and illustrations for the Department for Transport annual report 2008. [211408]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department spent £2,699 excluding VAT on photographs for the annual report 2008. Other graphs and diagrams were created from the Department's data at no additional external cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in her Department in the last 12 months. [210581]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following list of development opportunities are available to DfT staff:

Absence Management;
Accountancy;
Assessment Centre Training;
Avoiding Harassment and Bullying;
Coaching;
Coastguard training;
Communication—Oral and Written skills;
Coping with Traumatic Incidents;
Customer Service;
Data Protection;
Diversity Awareness;
Driving Examiner Assessment;
Emergency Officer Training;
Employment Law;
European Union Training;
Finance and Audit;
Health and Safety;
Impact Assessment;
Induction for new entrants;
Information Technology;
Interviewee Skills;
Language Courses;
Leadership Skills;
Manual Handling training;
Marine Vessel Inspection;
Marine Search and Rescue;
Mentoring;
Parliamentary Process;
Performance Management;
Personal Development;
Personal Effectiveness;
Pre-Retirement courses;
Procurement;
Professional Qualifications;
Programme and Project Management;
Recruitment and Selection Interviewing;
Risk Assessment Training;
Stress Management;
Talent Management;
Telephone Skills;
Traffic Officer Service training;
Transport Security Officer training;
Vehicle Safety and Inspection.

A good deal of these opportunities are available through the Department's training framework contract. Staff are encouraged to make full use of the framework contract to meet their development needs. However, where development needs cannot be met via the framework contract, there is flexibility for them to explore other options.

Departmental Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited into her Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if she will make a statement. [206474]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's (DfT's) aim is to ensure that all employees are subject to baseline personnel security standards.

DfT (C) and its Agencies carry out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), counter-terrorist check (CTC), security check (SC) and developed vetting (DV) clearance for all relevant posts where this level of clearance is necessary, for example working with vulnerable people, or in sensitive areas of the department.

It is recognised that overseas criminal record checks are more difficult depending on the country and will not in any event be picked up by Disclosure Scotland. The Home Office is taking forward work to improve access to overseas criminal conviction data as set out in the reply by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Meg Hillier), to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 4 February 2008 *Official Report*, columns 824-5W.

Driving Tests: Southend on Sea

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a final decision will be announced on the future of the Southend Driving Test Centre. [211526]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A decision is expected to be announced in August 2008.

Fixed Penalties: Appeals

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what method of redress is available to those who have paid a penalty charge notice subsequently found to be invalid under section 66(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1991. [209467]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Section 66(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1991 has been repealed but any enforcement action in respect of a parking contravention observed or detected before 2400 hours on Sunday 30 March 2008 must be taken under the provisions of that Act. Those provisions included the right of the recipient of a penalty charge notice to appeal against it to an adjudicator on various grounds. If the adjudicator allowed that appeal, the adjudicator could give the authority concerned such directions as he or she considered appropriate (for example the refund of the penalty) and such directions had to be complied with by the authority.

First Great Western Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason her Department specified service level reductions in respect of the present period for the franchise operated by First Great Western. [211087]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The specification for the greater western franchise was described in a stakeholder briefing document published by the Strategic Rail Authority in June 2005. Its primary objectives were to improve operational performance, and reduce the subsidy demand on taxpayers, by matching service provision more closely to demand.

First Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages will be withdrawn from west of Exeter when South West Trains cease operating west of Exeter; on how many services; and what steps she is taking to ensure that sufficient replacement rolling stock will be available to First Great Western. [211089]

Mr. Tom Harris: Currently, South West Trains run two trains in each direction between Exeter and Paignton, and two between Exeter and Plymouth, operating as extensions of the Waterloo-Exeter service. Each normally consists of three coaches. These extensions will cease in December 2009, when the Waterloo-Exeter train frequency is due to be increased to hourly. The Department for Transport is discussing the implications of these changes with relevant train operators and Passenger Focus, and will seek mitigation measures as necessary.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to respond to the freedom of information request of 7 February, from the hon. Member for Putney, on the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation; and if she will make a statement. [205914]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The papers for this case are currently being collated. The Secretary of State for Transport expects to respond to the hon. Member shortly.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on Heathrow airport, what tasks were included in the wide range of technical work in which BAA plc participated. [210598]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As set out in the Heathrow consultation document, BAA's involvement included developing the technical basis for mixed mode operations, refining the proposals for a third runway (including supporting passenger terminal facilities and connectivity), advising on forecasting and fleet mix assumptions and leading on the surface access work. Throughout the project, BAA's expertise as the airport operator assisted in ensuring that technical issues were properly understood and accurately represented.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections her Department has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions arising from motor vehicles in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020 and (iv) 2025; and if she will make a statement. [207310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport published projections in October 2007 on changes in CO_2 emissions from road transport in England.

These are summarised in the following table.

Road transport

	In million tonnes of CO_2
2010	96
2015	97
2025	93

These have been produced by applying the forecast percentage change in CO_2 emissions between 2003 and 2010, 2015 and 2025 from the Department's national transport model to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affair's official CO_2 inventory data for 2003. We have not produced a projection for 2020.

These forecasts are in the absence of further policy measures such as the changes to vehicle excise duty announced in this years budget and the outcome of the latest round of Commission discussions on mandatory new car CO_2 emissions and are consistent with what was announced in the Energy White Paper (2007). Further detail of the assumptions and policies underlying the road forecasts is available from:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/071023_AnnualForecast07.pdf.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the commitment to the Gleneagles G8 Climate Change Action Plan to use public procurement policy to accelerate market development of low-carbon vehicles. [209771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the May 2007 Energy White Paper the Government announced that they would develop a new programme to help public sector organisations procure innovative, lower-carbon vehicles, with a view to accelerating their market development. In its initial phase the programme will have funding of £20 million and will focus on development of a lower carbon van.

To ensure that Government lead by example we also set a new target that, by 2010-11, new passenger cars purchased by central Government Departments and their agencies for administrative purposes will on average emit 130 g/km CO_2 or lower. In addition, at EU level we are working on agreement of a new directive to promote public procurement of clean and energy-efficient vehicles, without imposing unacceptable additional costs on authorities.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on flexible fuel vehicles. [211877]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None, although Ministers and officials continue to engage with representatives from the automotive and fuel industries on this and on other biofuel-related issues.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which models of cars available for ministerial use are manufactured in the UK. [211579]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 June 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W, given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp).

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate she has made of the cost. [212116]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans for any Minister or official to attend the Beijing Olympics on behalf of the Department for Transport.

Parking: Income

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net income was from parking in each English local authority in each of the last five years; and what the balance of each authority's Parking Places Revenue Account was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210017]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the requested information on the gross and net income on parking services by each local authority in England in the last five years. Aggregate information for England is published in editions of Local Government Financial Statistics and the information is drawn from the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

The information on Parking Places Revenue Accounts is not held centrally.

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Oral Statement of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-23, on transport (Greater Manchester), how much of the funding allocated for public transport in Greater Manchester will be allocated to transport routes from East Lancashire. [211900]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The package of public transport investment included in the Greater Manchester Transport Innovation Fund bid, which was awarded programme entry on 9 June, is intended to support those most affected by the congestion charge scheme. Those commuting into the Greater Manchester area from neighbouring areas such as East Lancashire, and therefore affected by the charge, will also have access to, and benefit from, the planned improvements to public transport including to rail, bus and park and ride.

Public Transport: Lancashire

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the proposed East Lancashire rapid transit scheme. [211990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The North West Regional Transport Board has prioritised the proposed East Lancashire Rapid Transport scheme for funding as part of the North West Regional Funding Allocation. It is now for Blackburn with Darwen borough council to submit a major scheme business case to the Department for assessment.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the cost to the local authority of regulatory approval for construction of a road-based tramway system in East Lancashire; and if she will make a statement. [211992]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of securing approval for funding of any major public transport scheme will depend on a number of items, such as the scale of the scheme; whether a public inquiry is necessary; and the length of time taken to secure approval. The Department contributes up to 50 per cent. of eligible preparatory costs incurred by the scheme promoter between programme entry and full approval. Guidance to local authorities on the preparation of bids for funding is available on the Department's website.

Public Transport: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent per capita on public transport in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [209350]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Most support made available by the Department for Transport to local authorities for public transport has been in the form of block grant for capital investment, and it has been for local authorities to determine how much of their overall resources should be spent on public transport.

The following table includes per capita funding for the integrated transport capital funding allocated to Suffolk and England (outside of London) in each of the last five years. This funding is to support local authority investment in both local roads and public transport. The way funding is provided for London means there are no figures comparable to those for Suffolk available for England including London.

The table also includes specific DFT grant funding for Suffolk and local authorities in total in England outside London. The grant are rural bus subsidy and for specific bus projects (i.e. kick-start, rural bus challenge and urban bus challenge).

Local transport funding per capita in Suffolk and England (outside London)

					£/head
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Integrated transport					
England	14.54	15.62	13.12	12.98	13.55
Suffolk	12.32	11.56	10.97	11.31	10.17
Rural Bus subsidy					
England	1.15	1.21	1.26	1.29	1.32
Suffolk	2.68	2.76	2.87	2.94	3.01
Bus project spend					
England	0.70	0.76	0.47	0.48	0.38
Suffolk	0.60	0.38	0.26	0.09	0.00

Note:
All figures are based on 2006 population figures for England and Suffolk.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the enhancement expenditure for Control Period 4 recently published by the Office for Rail Regulation will be spent in Wales. [210749]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* In the Office of Rail Regulation's draft Determination of 5 June, £19 million was assigned for infrastructure schemes to support enhanced passenger services in the Cardiff area. In addition, £5.9 million has been assigned for improvements to Welsh stations in the first tranche allocation of funding under the national stations improvement programme. Other investments in the network, including schemes under the 'Access for All' initiative, and upgrade work to the Great West Main Line, will also benefit Welsh rail passengers, either directly or indirectly.

Rolling stock for Welsh services is a matter for the Welsh Assembly government.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to produce for the railways a specification for the control period from 2014 to 2019. [211088]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The High Level Output Specification for the railway for the years 2014-19 is due to be published in 2012, as part of a long term transport plan.

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have been found to be issuing invalid penalty charge notices under section 66(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1991 *(a)* in London and *(b)* outside London since the September 2006 decision of the High Court in the case of R v The Parking Adjudicator ex parte Barnet London Council; by what means refunds of invalid penalty charges have been issued; and what steps her Department has taken to advise the public that refunds of invalid penalty charges may be made. [209894]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no information about the authorities that are said to have issued penalty charge notices after being advised by the Chief Parking Adjudicators of the implications of the judgment in R *v.* The Parking Adjudicator ex parte Barnet London Council. If a local authority considered it appropriate to refund a penalty charge that had been paid it would need to contact the keeper using the details from their payment record or, if that was not available, from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Local authorities know that they have the power to cancel a penalty charge notice at any stage in the process and to refund a penalty charge that has been paid if they consider it appropriate.

Speed Limits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if her Department will commission an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of speed reducing technologies. [211446]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* There is a wide range of speed-reducing technologies currently and prospectively available, from enforcement technologies such as safety cameras through to awareness-raising technologies such as vehicle-activated signs and intelligent speed adaptation. We monitor and undertake evaluations of promising technologies on a continuous basis.

Stansted Airport

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 432W, on carbon emissions at Stansted Airport, how many *(a)* cargo and *(b)* long-haul aircraft movements were included in her Department's central forecast of 3Mt carbon dioxide emissions at Stansted Airport in 2030. [211489]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table G12 of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", November 2007, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

reports the breakdown of the 2030 central forecast of passenger air transport movements at Stansted between (a) domestic and short-haul, and *(b)* long-haul. This is repeated in the following table.

Forecast passenger air transport movements at Stansted, 2030

	Thousand per annum
Domestic and short-haul	470
Long-haul	0
Total	470

The same forecast includes 23,000 freighter ATMs at Stansted in 2030.

WALES

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plenary and functional meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee there have been in the last 12 months;

which Ministers attended; what the subject matter was of each meeting; and what the date is of the next scheduled plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. [208756]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No plenary meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee have been held in the last 12 months. There have been four meetings in the JMC (Europe) functional format in the last 12 months to discuss current EU business in which the devolved Administrations have an interest. There will be a meeting of the Committee in plenary format on 25 June 2008.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) when the next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee will take place; and how often he expects the plenary Committee to meet thereafter; [210351]

(2) which Minister will take the place allotted to the Deputy Prime Minister in plenary meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee. [210376]

Mr. Paul Murphy: There will be a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee in plenary format on 25 June 2008. It is not intended that any Minister will take the place previously allotted to the Deputy Prime Minister at the meeting.

It will be for the members of the Committee to reach agreement on timing of future meetings.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his responsibilities are for overseeing the Joint Ministerial Committee; what mechanisms are in place to ensure that there is no conflict between those responsibilities and his other responsibilities as Secretary of State; and whether he sits on the committee in the same capacity as the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland. [210353]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Prime Minister announced in Parliament on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 306, that I am responsible for the Joint Ministerial Committees on devolution. This is in addition to my responsibilities as Secretary of State for Wales, but raises no conflicts with those responsibilities. I sit on the Committee as both the Minister responsible for Joint Ministerial Committees and as the Secretary of State for Wales.

I have been pursuing with colleagues in the Government and in the devolved Administrations the reinvigoration of the JMC arrangements.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) pursuant to paragraph A1.5 of the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements Between the United Kingdom Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee, what further mechanisms there are for the Joint Ministerial Committee to deal with disputes between the Government and any or all of the devolved administrations; [210373]

(2) pursuant to paragraph A1.5 of the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements Between the United Kingdom Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee, whether the Joint Ministerial Committee has the power to resolve disputes between the Government and any or all of the devolved administrations, if unanimity is not reached between the parties involved; [210374]

(3) what procedures are in place to ensure that the positions of Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish Ministers are taken into account when disputes are brought before the Joint Ministerial Committee. [210375]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Memorandum of Understanding and associated documents establishing the Joint Ministerial Committee make clear that the Committee will be available to try to resolve differences, although they lay emphasis on resolution bilaterally or through the good offices of the appropriate territorial Secretary of State, and make clear that the JMC is not a decision-making body. The Committee has in recent years met only in its functional format dealing with European issues, in which there has been no need to invoke formal dispute resolution processes, and accordingly the arrangements for dispute resolution have not developed beyond those set out in the founding documents. Were a dispute to be referred to the Committee that affected a number of Administrations, it would be essential for all with an interest to be involved in its resolution.

Joint Ministerial Committee: Manpower

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* full-time equivalent posts there are on the Joint Ministerial Committee Secretariat; and how many members of the Secretariat are from each Government Department and each of the devolved administrations. [210350]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Officials of the Cabinet Office and of the three devolved Administrations provide the Secretariat to the JMC alongside their other responsibilities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* received by each local authority under the preventing violent extremism programme. [211431]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2007-08 the Government made the £6 million Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund available to around 70 local authorities. A table showing funding broken down by region has been deposited in the Library of the House.

In October 2007 the Communities Secretary announced £45 million over three years for local partnerships to build resilience to violent extremism. A table setting out funding for this financial year and indicative funding for the following two years for local authorities around England has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The first instalment of funding for the financial year 2008-09 was paid in March 2008 through the Area Based Grant (ABG), which is funded to local authorities in monthly instalments. Local authorities have therefore received three monthly instalments of the grant to date.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which faith groups she has advised local authorities to target through the preventing violent extremism programme. [211432]

Mr. Dhanda: As described in the recently launched Prevent Strategy, it is cohesive, empowered and resilient communities which are best equipped to confront violent extremists. There is a role for all communities in standing together to challenge violent extremism and to support those who may be targeted by violent extremists.

As set out in the accompanying guidance, local partners should take a "whole community" approach to ensure that this work does not inadvertently lead to pressure on vulnerable sections of the community. All communities should help to support those individuals, institutions and communities that are most vulnerable—making the most of the energy and experience of a range of groups working in faith and non-faith communities. Given the nature of the current security threat we expect local partners to work particularly closely with their Muslim communities.

Community Relations: Extremism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what her Department will spend its share of the pledged £12.5 million to help prevent extremism in communities; over what period of time her Department's share will be spent; which stakeholders will be consulted when deciding which community projects will be given funding from the budget; what the process will be to decide which organisations and projects will be given funding; how the effects of the funding will be assessed; and who will monitor those effects. [210282]

Mr. Dhanda: The £12.5 million will be spent by the Home Office on funding projects specifically to support institutions or individuals vulnerable to radicalisation. I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan) on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 451W. This £12.5 million complements our funding for locally-led projects to build the resilience of local communities and tackle violent extremism, which will be £45 million over the next three years.

Core Cities Group: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central funding the *(a)* Core Cities Group and *(b)* Thames Gateway London Partnership receives from (i) her Department and (ii) the Government Offices for the Regions. [211377]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department and its NDPB, The Housing Corporation, do not provide direct funding to the Core Cities Group.

The Department does not provide direct funding to the Thames Gateway London Partnership as it is not an accountable body.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210985]

Mr. Dhanda: A copy of the chart of accounts and resource account codes has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many permanent staff within *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [210863]

Mr. Dhanda: At week ending 13 June, 49 permanent staff within the Department are classed as without a permanent post and all are part of a people action team known as the Career Transition Centre

Seven permanent staff within the Department's agencies are classed as without a permanent post and all are part of a people action team.

Departmental Official Visits

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department's travel booking service holds of visits organised through the service by her Department's representatives. [211384]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department uses various booking services for all of its travel requirements as well as allowing staff to book their own travel. As is common within the industry booking services/travel agents hold details on destinations, type of travel and cost.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications her Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [210883]

Mr. Dhanda: Two planning applications were submitted to the London borough of Westminster in June 2006. One for the installation of CCTV cameras at Ashdown House, 123 Victoria street, London SW1E 6DE, and one for the installation of CCTV cameras at Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU.

No licensing applications have been submitted in the last 24 months.

This answer does not include land and buildings occupied by Government Offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments, CLG's Government Agencies or NDPB's.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many reviews of regulation the Audit Commission has conducted or commenced since July 2007; and in which areas. [210885]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 18 June 2008:

Your question on the reviews of regulation conducted by the Audit Commission has been passed to me for reply. The Commission has not commenced any review of regulation since July 2007, but in 2006 we published two discussion papers on regulation—'Assessment of local services beyond 2008' and 'The future of regulation in the public sector'—and I am enclosing copies for your information. In addition to this, we have also contributed to reviews of housing and health regulation.

In November 2007, we and several other inspectorates consulted widely on the scope and framework for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and will be publishing a further consultation later this year. CAA is the new assessment framework for local services required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Building on the demonstrable improvements in councils and other local public services in recent years, CAA will mark the cessation of several existing assessment regimes, including the Audit Commission's own Comprehensive Performance Assessment of local authorities and will significantly reduce the number of inspections of local public services. Where these are required, they will be proportionate, will draw on far fewer national performance indicators and will be coordinated between inspectorates. This regime of minimal inspection will be balanced by a more integrated and, therefore, often more challenging, judgement on the overall quality of services. We also intend to continue to add value by using our findings to share good practice quickly and accessibly.

I will be happy to discuss the Commission's work in any of these areas with you, if you would find that helpful.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210557]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department and its agencies' expenditure on training courses over the last 12 months and five years respectively is shown as follows. The figures do not include the Government offices.

Training expenditure

	£	
	12 months	*5 years*
Communities and Local Government	2,113,043	[1]10,037,245
Agencies	636,151	4,533,078

[1] This figure includes expenditure incurred by the former ODPM

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in her Department in the last 12 months. [210572]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has made available to its staff the following training opportunities, among others:

Centrally managed programmes (e.g. induction, coaching, mentoring, dignity and respect, analysis and use of evidence, working with ministers and managing performance);

Professional qualifications (e.g. finance, planning and human resources);

Cabinet Office/NSG Sponsored programmes (Top Management programme, High Potential Development programme, Preparing for Top Management and Leaders UnLtd);

Princes Trust Leadership programme;

Open public scheduled training courses (job related/personal development);

and

E-learning programmes.

The Department promotes the value of training and development and a large proportion of staff have taken advantage of the centrally managed programmes in the last 12 months.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [210882]

Mr. Dhanda: The Communities and Local Government's Euro Changeover Plan was last updated in June 2007. A list of Communities and Local Government agencies and non-departmental public bodies that produced a euro changeover plan along with the dates these were produced is provided as follows:

	Agency/NDPB
(a) Executive agencies	
September 2004	Government Offices/Regional Co-ordination Unit
September 2004	Planning Inspectorate
September 2004	The Fire Service College
June 2004	QEII Conference Centre
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	
August 2004	Valuation Tribunal Service
August 2004	English Partnership
September 2004	Housing Corporation
June 2004	Audit Commission
September 2004	The Standards Board for England
September 2004	Ordnance Survey

The Communities and Local Government Euro Changeover Plan was placed in the House of Commons Library in February 2006.

There are no plans at present to place a copy of Communities and Local Government euro changeover plan 2007 or those of its agencies and NDPB's in the Library.

Eco-towns: Leicestershire

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when *(a)* she, *(b)* the Housing Minister and *(c)* officials in her Department (i) have visited and (ii) plan to visit the proposed eco-town site in Harborough; and which officials have already visited the site. [211281]

Caroline Flint: I am currently planning a programme of visits to all the shortlisted eco-town locations over the next couple of months, and this will include the eco-town site at Harborough. At least two officials in my Department have visited the proposed site.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire officers were hospitalised as a result of being assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211328]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Death

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters died on duty in each fire authority in each year since 1986; and how many of these deaths were *(a)* the result of attendance at (i) fire, (ii) road traffic and (iii) other incidents, *(b)* occurred while the firefighter was undertaking training and *(c)* resulted from natural causes. [211591]

Mr. Dhanda: Information requested is set out as follows:

Firefighter deaths while on duty, England 1986-87 to 2007-08

	While attending to:						
	Fires	*Road traffic incidents*	*Other incidents*	*Natural causes*	*During training*	*Other*	*Total*
1986-87	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1987-88	2	0	0	0	0	3	5
1988-89	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
1989-90	0	0	0	3	1	1	5
1990-91	2	0	0	0	0	3	5
1991-92	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
1992-93	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
1993-94	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
1994-95	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1995-96[1]	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1996-97	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1997-98	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
1998-99	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
1999-2000	0	0	1	0	0	3	4
2000-01	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
2001-02	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2002-03[2]	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
2003-04	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2004-05	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
2005-06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-07[3]	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2007-08	5	0	0	0	0	0	5

[1] Excludes one firefighter who died attending a non-fire incident while off duty.
[2] Excludes one firefighter who died attending a fire, while off duty.
[3] Excludes one retired firefighter who died while attending a fire.

Fire Services: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency plans are in place to ensure the provision of fuel for fire service vehicles during periods of fuel shortages. [211518]

Mr. Dhanda: Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the fire and rescue service is required to plan for contingencies, and this includes planning for dealing with interruptions in fuel supplies. Typically they do this by maintaining their own stores of diesel, sufficient to see them through an extended period of disruption. As a member of the Local Resilience Forum they also work with other local emergency responders to co-ordinate their planning against such contingencies.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the supply of fuel to fire appliances during the strike by fuel supply drivers. [212160]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has received no such representations.

Fire Services: Standards

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average fire appliance response time was to primary fires for each fire and rescue service in England measured from first fire appliance mobilised to first attendance of the fire appliance in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [211339]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table, shows the average response times of fire and rescue services in England in 2006, from mobilisation to attendance for primary fires. Data for the 2007 calendar year are not yet available.

Table 1: Average response times to primary fires[1] by FRS area, England, 2006

FRS area	*Average response time*
England	7.22
England—Non-met counties	7.98
Avon	7.79
Bedfordshire	7.29
Berkshire	7.67
Buckinghamshire	8.52
Cambridgeshire	9.67
Cheshire	7.63
Cleveland	5.57
Cornwall	9.83
Cumbria	8.74
Derbyshire	7.75
Devon	7.48
Dorset	8.14
Durham	8.16
East Sussex	6.85
Essex	7.89
Gloucestershire	9.05
Hampshire	7.52
Hereford and Worcester	8.49
Hertfordshire	7.12
Humberside	6.44
Isle of Wight	7.22
Kent	7.51
Lancashire	6.90
Leicestershire	7.88
Lincolnshire	10.25
Norfolk	9.09
North Yorkshire	8.69
Northamptonshire	7.67
Northumberland	8.33
Nottinghamshire	6.64
Oxfordshire	9.08
Shropshire	8.54
Somerset	9.67
Staffordshire	8.78
Suffolk	9.22
Surrey	8.49
Warwickshire	8.05
West Sussex	8.59
Wiltshire	9.79
Isles of Scilly	7.30
England—Met counties	6.37
Greater Manchester	6.77
Merseyside	6.14
South Yorkshire	6.93
Tyne and Wear	5.47
West Midlands	6.24
West Yorkshire	7.02
Greater London	5.53

[1] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from local authorities on meeting the costs of the floods of summer 2007; and if she will make a statement. [211537]

John Healey: Consultation with local authorities and others closed on 29 May 2008 for the new Restoration Fund, which Government have been able to make available following a successful bid to the European Union Solidarity Fund.

Local authorities are currently being asked to supply data on the costs they have incurred, to help inform decisions about payments from the Restoration Fund. I intend to make announcements on funding allocations before the parliamentary summer recess.

Green Belt: South East

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on the green belt, if she will reject the South East Plan Examination in Public Panel's proposals to remove green belt protection in *(a)* Blackwater Valley, *(b)* Elmbridge, *(c)* Guildford, *(d)* Oxford, *(e)* Redhill and Reigate, *(f)* Tandridge, (h) Tunbridge Wells and *(i)* Woking. [211496]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is currently considering the report of the independent panel into the examination of the draft regional spatial strategy and it would be inappropriate to comment on what may or may not be included in any proposed changes.

Homelessness

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were classed as homeless in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211329]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night.

National and regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation are published in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library of the House each quarter. The latest release was published on 12 June 2008, and provides national and regional acceptance figures in Table 3, and temporary accommodation figures in Table 7, both back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

Rough sleeping figures are also published on our website, back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/152200.xls

A set of more detailed homelessness tables have been deposited in the Library of the House which gives a summary of rough sleeper estimates by Government office region.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of responses to the consultation on whether to remove permitted development rights to households paving over front gardens. [211074]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government published a summary of responses to a consultation on proposals for changes to householder permitted development rights on 29 November last year. The analysis showed that 68 per cent. of those that responded on this issue favoured some form of national restriction on the paving over of front gardens. The document is available on the department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/householderpermitted.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 7 February as part of the Government's Water Strategy, "Future Water", our intention to impose a restriction on permitted development rights relating to the paving of front gardens. The interim impact assessment that accompanied the announcement can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/permeablesurfacing.

Changes to permitted development rights will come into force on 1 October this year.

Local Authorities: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been provided to local authorities on drawing up codes of conduct for local authority employees in the last five years. [211383]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not in the last five years provided any guidance to local authorities in relation to codes of conduct for local authority employees.

Morning Star

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many copies of the *Morning Star* her Department and each of its agencies procures via subscription each week; and at what cost. [210822]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department and its agencies do not have subscriptions in place for the *Morning Star*.

North-West

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated by her Department, its agencies and non-departmental bodies to *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* north-west england in each year since 1997; and for what purpose the funds were allocated in each case. [210624]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 12 June 2008]*: Information on funding provided by the Department to the Lancashire area as a whole is not available other than at disproportionate cost. The main elements of funding provided by Communities and Local Government and its predecessor departments to Lancashire county council since 2002-03 are listed in the following table, (figures in £ millions). Information for earlier years is not readily available.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Revenue support grant[1]	347.7	406.9	445.4	430.4	36.0	33.4	33.3
National non-domestic rates	303.3	303.0	287.2	349.1	186.7	199.1	239.1
Housing market renewal fund[2]	—	6.6	22.8	43.2	46.0	48.8	52.0
Local area agreements/area based grant[3]	—	—	—	—	—	25.6	52.3
Supporting people[4]	0.7	31.5	31.7	29.9	29.4	29.7	29.7
Public service agreement performance fund	—	1.9	0.1	—	7.9	7.4	—

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[1] Prior to 2006-07 support for schools was included in formula grant; from 2006-07 onwards support for schools has been provided via dedicated schools grant which is paid through the Department for Schools and Families and is not shown here.

[2] Funding paid to Lancashire county council as accountable body for the East Lancashire housing market renewal pathfinder. The amount shown against 2003-04 was a payment covering 2002-03 and 2003-04.

[3] Payments were made via local area agreements in 2007-08 and area based grant in 2008-09.

[4] The Supporting People programme went live in April 2003. Prior to this date the Government contributed towards administration costs of establishing the programme.

There were also a number of smaller payments made, amounting to no more than £3 million in total in any one year.

In addition, English Partnerships, an NDPB sponsored by Communities and Local Government, provided funding of £0.4 million to Lancashire county council in 2005-06 in respect of Whittingham hospital. Amounts paid by English Partnerships in other years were negligible.

Information on public expenditure by region is published in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008 (HC 489)."

Office for National Statistics: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2008, on the Migration Impacts Plan, whether the £12 million programme led by the Office for National Statistics to improve population and migration data entails additional monies and new activities or whether it is part of the Office for National Statistics' ongoing Improving Migration and Population Statistics Project. [211465]

Mr. Dhanda: The £12-million funding announced over a three-year period comprises additional resources that the Office for National Statistics has itself committed, that are on top of the resources it was already planning to spend on an ongoing basis to improve its population and migration statistics, and new contributions from Government Departments. The programme includes new activities, as well as some extensions to existing work.

Ordnance Survey: Manpower

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified solicitors Ordnance Survey employs *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time in its legal department. [211220]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey currently employs six full-time and two part-time qualified solicitors in its legal department.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are employed by Ordnance Survey *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time in (i) an account management and (ii) a sales role. [211221]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey employs 63 full-time staff employed in a sales role of whom 37 are account managers. No part-time staff are employed in these roles.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many permanent and contract staff at Ordnance Survey (OS) are involved in drafting and reviewing OS licences. [211222]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has three permanent qualified solicitors who each spend approximately 25 per cent. of their time drafting or amending Ordnance Survey's licences for its products. Ordnance Survey has one permanent paralegal who spends approximately 60 per cent. of their time populating standard licence agreements. Ordnance Survey also has four permanent Licence Development Managers who each spend approximately 50 per cent. of their time working on proposals to develop new, or to amend existing, licences.

Regional Spatial Strategies: Green Belt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to green belt designation the *(a)* draft South East Regional Spatial Strategy and *(b)* inspector's report proposes; and in which locations in the South East would designated green belt be reviewed or removed. [211378]

Mr. Dhanda: The draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East made no recommendations for a review of the green belt. The Independent Panel Report, published in August 2007, made recommendations regarding a selective review of green belt boundaries in;

(i.) The metropolitan green belt to the North East of Guildford, and possibly to the South of Woking and

(ii). In the Oxford green belt to the South of the city.

It also recommended boundary review in the area of the former 'Defence Evolution and Research Agency' site at Chertsey and smaller scale local reviews in other locations, including around Redhill-Reigate.

The Secretary of State is currently considering the recommendations of the Panel Report.

Somerset County Council: Manpower

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the workforce of Somerset county council was in each of the last five years. [211433]

Mr. Dhanda: The full-time equivalent staff numbers as at March each financial year are:

	Staff numbers
2003-04	11,719
2004-05	11,956
2005-06	12,377
2006-07	[1]13,303
2007-08	[1]13,293

[1] Includes all adult learning tutors.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department is contributing to the £140 million fund announced on 6 June 2008 to encourage local authorities to provide free swimming. [211451]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government will contribute £5 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11—a total of £10 million.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the area of land *(a)* in total and *(b)* per Traveller which needs to be provided for Travellers in (i) England, (ii) the South West, (iii) Devon and (iv) the National Parks. [211523]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government published a good practice guide on designing Gypsy and Traveller sites on 15 May which recognises that there is no one-size-fits-all measurement for pitches on which Gypsy and Traveller families occupying caravans on public sites live. However, in "Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Travellers" the Commission for Racial Equality estimated that less than one square mile of land was needed to provide accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised sites in the whole of England.

Travelling People: East of England

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what studies of movements in the Gypsy and Traveller population her Department undertook ahead of the consultation on the single issue review of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy. [211911]

Mr. Iain Wright: The draft proposals prepared by the East of England regional assembly (EERA) were informed by the completion of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) prepared by the local authorities in the region. The Department published guidance in October 2007 on the preparation of GTAAs. The guidance highlights the need to take account of the mobility of Gypsies and Travellers between areas, and that partnership working should help to develop a better understanding of migration into, out of, and within the survey area.

The EERA proposals will be subject to an Examination in Public commencing in October 2008.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projections have been made of the growth of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the east of England by *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2050. [211951]

Mr. Iain Wright: The East of England regional assembly has prepared a single issue review on "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation" in the East of England. The draft strategy considers the need for Gypsy and Traveller sites up to 2011. After 2011, the strategy proposes that provision should be made on the basis of an annual increase of 3 per cent. in the level of overall pitch provision. This draft strategy was subject to public consultation earlier this year and will be considered at an Examination in Public in October 2008.

There has been no projection of the growth of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the East of England by 2050.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals have been received from *(a)* EU partners and *(b)* EU institutions on (i) a common EU list of safe countries of origin, (ii) harmonisation of member state criteria for asylum and (iii) a central EU asylum office; what the Government's policy is on such proposals; and if she will make a statement. [211271]

Mr. Byrne: The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) and the Tampere European Council (1999) committed member states to a broad range of measures towards establishing a Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Components forming the first phase of the CEAS have been agreed, including the Asylum Procedures Directive (2005/85/EC).

Article 29 of which contains provisions for a minimum common list of third countries regarded as safe countries of origin. An EU list could be established following a successful vote under qualified majority vote by Council but to-date no proposals for the countries that could form an EU list have been made.

Criteria establishing minimum standards for the granting of international protection status are contained with the Qualification Directive (2004/83/EC).

The Hague Programme (November 2004) started the second phase of the CEAS process. The European Commission presented a Communication on Strengthened Practical Cooperation in the area of Asylum (February 2006) and a Green Paper on the future CEAS (June 2007). The latter sought the views of interested parties on the future direction of the CEAS, including the possible development of a European Support Office to oversee all forms of cooperation between member states. No proposals have been made as yet and when they are we will judge them on their individual merits. The European Commission will shortly present a policy plan on asylum for further discussion, a copy of which will be deposited with the appropriate Committees in both Houses for scrutiny. We retain the right to opt-in to future proposals for legislative measures on a case-by-case basis and will do so where it is in the UK's interests.

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total saving the e-Borders programme is expected to generate for the public purse. [211108]

Mr. Byrne: e-Borders is an evolutionary system of intelligent passenger management that will improve the security, efficiency and effectiveness of the UK's borders. Amongst other benefits, it will allow the border agencies to:

Identify potential threats to public security and take the necessary action;

Increase our efficiency in moving people through our borders, and allow us to manage the exponential growth in passenger numbers;

Detain people immediately on identification at the border, increasing operational effectiveness and potentially reducing operational costs in doing so.

The use of e-Borders (over existing systems) is expected to generate projected savings for the Government of approximately £692 million over 25 years.

The financial costs of implementing e-Borders may outweigh the financial benefits; however e-Borders is about more than financial gains.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected total cost is of the e-Borders programme. [211109]

Mr. Byrne: The current projected total cost of the e-Borders programme is £1.2 billion.

The projected costs of £1.2 billion include Semaphore and IRIS while they were pilot projects.

This figure also includes both capital and revenue forecast to the end of the contract, and actual costs from the start of the programme in 2004 up to the end of 2007-08.

British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what files are held by her Department on the British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill of Session 1988-89; and if she will make a statement. [210528]

Mr. Byrne: There is a UK Border Agency file which holds papers produced when this Bill, which sought to give honorary British nationality to any individual for outstanding humanitarian services in Hungary between July 1944 and January 1945, was introduced in 1989.

At the current time, the British Nationality Act 1981 provides for the acquisition of British citizenship for those who have a close and continuing connection with the United Kingdom. The Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship', contains proposals to extend this further by setting out the need for those wishing to become naturalised to speak English, spend minimum periods contributing economically and being self-sufficient, obeying the law and joining in with the community. We are not intending to make any changes which would enable a person to acquire citizenship on an honorary basis.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is responsible for determining the questions asked as part of the Life in the UK Test; and whether she plans to endorse particular publications as recommended revision materials for those taking the Test. [211649]

Mr. Byrne: Questions asked in the Life in the UK test were drawn up by experts in computer-based assessment from Ufi (the organisation that holds the current contract for providing the testing service) and representatives from the Advisory Board for Naturalisation and Integration. The current database of test questions was approved by Ministers.

Test questions are based on the official handbook "Life in the UK: A Journey to Citizenship" which contains everything applicants need to know in order to take the test. This is the only publication we endorse.

Communications Directorate

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the function is of her Department's *(a)* Stakeholder Strategy Unit and *(b)* Strategy and Insight Unit within the Communication Directorate; and how many staff work in each. [210837]

Mr. Byrne: The function of the Stakeholder Strategy Unit is to improve the way the Home Office works with and listens to its stakeholders, supporting Ministers, the Home Office Board and business units on all aspects of partnership working, seven staff work in the unit.

The Strategy and Insight Unit lead in the development of the central Home Office communications strategy, acting as the central hub for communication planning research, audience insight and campaign evaluation. They provide strategic communications planning advice to teams embedded within delivery groups/agencies and the Communication Directorate, five staff work in the unit.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210994]

Mr. Byrne: A copy of the Department's chart of accounts has been placed in the Library. The resource account codes and usage descriptions are an inherent part of the chart of accounts and have not been placed separately.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permanent staff within *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [210866]

Mr. Byrne: The position as at 31 May 2008 is shown in the following table. The 62 members of staff classified as being without posts represent 0.22 per cent. of the total Home Office work force.

These staff are currently undertaking work for the Department while actively seeking other permanent posts, either within the Home Office and its agencies, or in another Government Department.

Staff classified as without posts, and staff working on their redeployment

	Staff classified as without posts	*Staff working exclusively on the redeployment of those without posts*
Home Office HQ	16	2
UK Border Agency	46	5
Identity and Passport Service	0	0
Criminal Records Bureau	0	0
Total	62	7

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications her Department has submitted in the last 24 months. [210842]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not recorded or held centrally.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public information booklets were published by her Department in 2007; and what the *(a)* print run and *(b)* cost to the Department was in each case. [185793]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office publishes advice for the public on crime prevention and the criminal justice system. The following table presents the title of each publication, the print run and the cost to the Department in each case for the financial year 2007-08.

Subject	*Publication title*	*Print run*	*Cost (£)*
Crime prevention advice	Student Survival Guide	510,000	28,865.00
	Be Safe, Be Secure	900,500	92,005.00
	Keep it safe, keep it hidden, keep it locked	10,000	1,320.00
	Your business: Keep crime out of it	100,000	15,039.00
	Keep your child safe on the internet	20,000	2,629.00
	A guide to Home Security	700,000	29,777.00
	Distraction Burglary - Guide for carers	110,000	8,541.50
	How to beat the bogus caller	830,000	24,910.00
	Neighbourhood Watch Good Ideas booklet	210,000	22,595.30
	Steer Clear of Car Crime	700,000	27,885.00
	Steer clear of cycle theft	10,000	1,904.00
	Steer clear of Plant theft	20,000	2,871.00
	Steer clear of Bike theft	100,000	6,542.00
	Steer Clear of Truck Theft	20,000	2,581.00
Criminal Justice System advice	Young Witness Pack: Your Child is a Witness	10,000	4,198.00
	Young Witness Pack - Going To Court	10,000	7,523.00
	Young Witness Pack - Being a Witness	5,000	2,992.00
	Young Witness Pack Going to Magistrates Court	3,000	3,181.00
	Witness in Court	150,000	16,310.00
	Giving a witness statement to the Police	150,000	8,238.00
	Inside Justice Brochure	39,000	9,659.00
	Vulnerable Witnesses Intermediary Scheme	1,000	3,086.00
Total			322,651.80

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when each of her Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209242]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office and its agencies do not have a corporate green travel plan. The Home Office is working towards the Government target of reducing its carbon emissions from road vehicles by 15 per cent. by 2010-11.

In some cases individual buildings/sites have a travel plan tailored to that specific location. At the new Home Office building, Vulcan House in Sheffield a green transport plan was produced for staff as part of meeting the city council planning requirements for the new UK 'Border Agency' buildings there. The travel plan was submitted to the planners in January 2008 and covers approximately 1,800 staff.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sector for which she has policy responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [210453]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's procurement policy and procedures currently support Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) through continuous improvement in sustainable development which includes coverage of social issues.

The base level of responsibility is legal compliance in line with the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. In addition the Department's policy is to encourage the adoption of CSR beyond minimum legal standards by considering material social factors in investment decisions where they are relevant to the contract.

When developing specifications and procurement strategies, purchasing staff take into account social factors and incorporate them into the procurement process where they are relevant to the subject of the contract. Staff take the requirements of equality and diversity legislation into account when drafting specifications, developing evaluation criteria, sourcing suppliers, inviting bids and drafting contracts. Where it is relevant to the contract, an equality impact assessment is undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much her Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [211564]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's expenditure on refreshments is set out in the following table, 2006-07 being the most recent 12-month period for which there are audited figures.

The Home Office systems do not identify separately the origin of products and the percentage of expenditure on Fairtrade products can be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

	£ *Expenditure*
2004-05	268,999
2005-06	323,061
2006-07	91,829

Illegal Fuel Laundering: Prosecutions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the operation of illegal fuel laundering plants in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years; and what the average sentence handed down by the courts was for that offence. [211333]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

For the period in question, the numbers of people prosecuted and convicted of the operation of illegal fuel laundering plants in Northern Ireland are:

	Number prosecuted	*Number convicted*
June 2006-May 2007	0	0
June 2007-May 2008	3	3

The average sentence handed down by the courts in Northern Ireland for these convictions is 11.5 months imprisonment, suspended for three years.

The number of people convicted in relation to hydrocarbon oils fraud in Northern Ireland during the period 2007-08 will be published in the HMRC autumn performance report 2008, later this year.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist for *(a)* joint working and *(b)* liaison between the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Scottish Crime, and Drug Enforcement Agency on matters relating to human trafficking. [208336]

Mr. Coaker: There is close formal and informal liaison between SOCA and the SCDEA, who work together to tackle all forms of serious organised crime, including human trafficking.

SOCA and the SCDEA are members of the Scottish Government-led Serious Organised Crime Taskforce and attend the ACPOS 'Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland' Crime Business Area meetings. Both agencies participate in the Scottish Tasking and Co-ordination (STC) regime.

The Scottish Strategic Tasking and Co-ordination (SSTC) group commissions the Scottish Strategic Assessment and that sets the priorities for operational activity aimed at the arrest or disruption of serious organised criminals—including those who commit organised immigration crime. The Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination group is mandated to seek joint operational outcomes against those priorities and both agencies are members of that group.

Immigration

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether production of an NHS medical card is accepted by her Department as evidence of residence in the UK. [211257]

Mr. Byrne: NHS cards are acceptable as one piece of evidence of residence in the UK, but could not be accepted as sole evidence of UK residence.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances those claiming UK residence are asked by her Department to obtain a letter from a GP confirming surgery registration. [211258]

Mr. Byrne: There are no circumstances where an applicant is specifically required to produce evidence of GP surgery registration when applying for settlement. However, this document may be one of a number of examples the applicant may choose to submit.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to implement the decision of the Immigration Judge promulgated on 15 January in the case of Master C. J. R. versus Entry Clearance Officer (Kingston) (references OA/24150/2007 and KGN/125259). [211647]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 June 2008]:* A copy of the Immigration Judge's determination of 15 January 2008 in the case of Master C.J.R. was sent by email to the British high commission in Kingston Jamaica on 13 June 2008 so that the decision may be implemented.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken on the case of Mr. A. U. of Monks Risborough (reference TN3/390773; U1030958) following the decision of Queen's Bench division of the Administrative Court (AA/08277/2007) to reject her appeal against the decision of the Senior Immigration Judge. [211648]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 13 June 2008.

Immigration Controls: Airports

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets are set for maximum waiting times at *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU immigration desks at (i) Heathrow, (ii) Stansted and (iii) Gatwick airports; what performance was achieved against these targets in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [164223]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 12 June 2008.

Intelligence Services

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what active operations members of security forces of foreign states are permitted to undertake in the UK; and what restrictions apply to them. [202113]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 April 2008]:* Any activity is permitted as long as it is in accordance with law.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to respond to the letter dated 18th April 2008 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood sent on behalf of Sumithra Wickramage (acknowledgement reference B14770/8, Home Office reference W227390). [211330]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 13 June 2008.

Rape

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on *(a)* increasing the proportion of rapes reported to the police and *(b)* increasing women's access to rape crisis centres since January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [207117]

Mr. Coaker: The Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse, published in April 2007 set out the Government's actions to tackle sexual violence for 2007-08 by maximising prevention, increasing access to support services for victims and improving the response of the criminal justice system. An update on progress for 2007-08 and an action plan for 2008-09 will be available by the summer.

In order to increase reporting to the police, it is necessary to ensure that victims are supported adequately and can have confidence in the criminal justice system. Key actions to increase reporting to the police and improve access to rape crisis centres since January 2008 have included:

Grants of £75,000 made to each of the sexual violence umbrella groups: The Survivors Trust and Rape Crisis England and Wales.

Grants of £1.25 million from the Victims Fund allocated to 40 voluntary sector organisations providing services for victims of sexual violence and abuse.

Continued funding for existing independent sexual violence advisers announced.

Capital funding allocated to existing sexual assault referral centres.

£1 million announced to support rape crisis centres.

An indicator on support services for victims of sexual violence included in the National Indicator Set.

A joint police/Crown Prosecution Service protocol on investigating and prosecuting rape developed and seminars given.

The CPS Policy Statement on Rape has been updated and is shortly to be put out for public consultation.

Continued visits to police force areas by the joint Association of Chief Police Officers/Home Office expert support team and action plans initiated in every area.

Continued monitoring of police and CPS performance on rape by the Rape Performance Group.

A conference on rape to be attended by chief constables in July.

Security Industry Authority

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Security Industry Authority on the composition of the regulator's executive board. [210388]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* The Secretary of State has the power, under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, to appoint the Board of the Security Industry Authority (SIA). In 2007, Home Office Ministers decided, following discussions with the chair of the SIA, to appoint two additional members with expertise relevant to the Private Security Industry and Scotland. Following an open competition, two additional members, Linda Sharpe and Bill Matthews, were subsequently appointed with effect from 1 April 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 178371, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 9th January, on entry clearances. [206265]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 June 2008, *Official Report,* columns 343-44W.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will provide a substantive response to question 207620, tabled by the hon. Member for Ilford South on 20 May 2008 on the MPs' UK Visas Hotline. [211391]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 353W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty Unit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the joint Child Poverty Unit has met. [211135]

Mr. Timms: Members of the unit work closely together day to day, whether physically side by side or through frequent e-mail and phone contact. As well as attending ministerial meetings, they have held numerous meetings with external stakeholders, and seminars on tackling child poverty (some jointly hosted with lobby organisations or think tanks) for local authorities and others. They have also hosted cross-Whitehall Stakeholder Group meetings, and attended Four Countries meetings.

Child Poverty Unit: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people work full-time for the joint Child Poverty Unit. [211136]

Mr. Timms: The Child Poverty Unit currently comprises 19 staff, 18 of whom are full-time.

Child Support Agency: Pay

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary paid to Child Support Agency staff was in each of the last 10 years. [185124]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mark Grimshaw, dated 18 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently out of the office on business, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average salary paid to Child Support Agency staff was in each of the last 10 years. [185124]

The Agency does not routinely collate the required information on basic salary costs to undertake the analysis requested without incurring a disproportionate cost. However, information on the number of people employed by the Agency and total staff costs is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Annual Report & Accounts.

The table below details the average staff costs, which includes wages, salaries, superannuation, national insurance and pension contributions as well as bonus payments, paid to Agency people in each of the last 10 years.

Financial year	*Average number of staff employed*	*Average staff cost (£)*
1997-98	8,400	17,200
1998-99	8,200	17,300
1999-2000	8,500	18,000
2000-01	9,200	17,200
2001-02	9,500	19,200
2002-03	10,300	20,400
2003-04	10,200	21,100
2004-05	10,200	21,500
2005-06	10,400	23,000
2006-07	11,400	23,800

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made by the Child Support Agency in meeting its Operational Improvement Plan debt recovery targets *(a)* to collect at least £113 million of additional debt via the use of external private debt collection agencies by March 2009 and *(b)* to collect at least £110.8 million of additional debt using internal resources by March 2009. [181248]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mark Grimshaw, dated 18 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently out of the office on business, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made by the Child Support Agency in meeting its Operational Improvement Plan debt recovery targets (a) to collect at least £113 million of additional debt via the use of external private debt collection agencies by March 2009 and (b) to collect at least £110.8 million of additional debt using internal resources by March 2009. [181248]

Between April 2006 and March 2007, the Agency collected £90.6 million towards its Operational Improvement Plan historic debt target, exceeding its £80 million baseline by £10.6 million. Between April 2007 and March 2008, a total of £126 million was collected exceeding the arrears target for the financial year 2007/08 of £120 million. This target includes a £40 million contribution to the Operational Improvement Plan historic debt recovery target.

By the end of March 2008, £11.9 million had been collected by external private debt collection agencies. In addition the seven-day warning letter sent by the Agency to inform clients that their debt is being transferred to the debt collection agencies resulted in £6 million being collected by the Agency bringing the total collected in this period to £17.9 million.

In total, the Agency has collected over £217 million in maintenance arrears since April 2006 and continues to make good progress towards meeting the Operational Improvement Plan commitment of collecting an additional £200 million in arrears, which is heavily weighted towards the final year of the Plan, by March 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was owed in child maintenance arrears by non-resident parents in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 1997. [208646]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 June 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was owed in child maintenance arrears by non-resident parents in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 1997. [208646]

The Agency is only able to analyse the amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding by parliamentary constituency on cases maintained on the new computer system (CS2) from February 2007. The Agency is not able to estimate the amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding on the old system (CSCS) at parliamentary constituency level. At the end of March 2008, the total amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents, living in Bexleyheath and Crayford was £2 million compared to £1.6 million at the end of March 2007.

This debt is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their responsibilities to their children. Debt recovery is very much dependent on the willingness of non-resident parents to co-operate with the Agency. Some non-resident parents do their utmost to avoid their responsibilities—for example by moving house or changing jobs whenever the Agency tries to collect maintenance.

The Agency has increased the amount of child maintenance collected or arranged over the first two years of the Operational Improvement Plan, collecting a record-breaking £1 billion in the year to March 2008 of which £126 million was arrears. In addition, internal Agency figures show that the rate at which child maintenance debt has been growing continues to reduce. In the year to March 2008, child maintenance debt grew at a rate of £10 million a month, which is less than half the rate at which debt was growing in the year to March 2006.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which pilot projects initiated by his Department in the last two years have not proceeded to further roll-out. [211842]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on its international work in each of the last five years. [211148]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department, over the last five years, has been involved in a wide range of activities in support of the UK's international obligations. The costs associated with this work are paid by different parts of the Department and details of spend on international work is not held centrally. A full answer, with a breakdown of figures as requested, could be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what proportion of its staff his Department has provided vocational training in the last three years. [209429]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested in relation to what proportion of its Department has provided vocational training is the last three years is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has conducted to estimate the number and proportion of the UK population who will have a disability in the future. [210149]

Mrs. McGuire: Research is currently under way within the Office for Disability Issues to forecast the number and proportion of the UK population who will have a long-standing illness, impairment or disability in the future. This is a complex issue which involves making assumptions about the ageing population, medical innovation and other technical advances which all could potentially affect the estimate in the future.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 749W, on the Fairtrade initiative, (1) what fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements; [209009]

(2) what the value was of fairtrade products purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of revenue this represented. [209010]

Mrs. McGuire: In line with Government policy, the Department is committed to fairtrade and ethical supply routes.

The Department's facilities management partner, Land Securities Trillium (LST) provides in house catering services where premises allow. Ethical procurement practices are a key factor in the contract.

Where practicable, LST purchases sustainable produce for sale on departmental premises. LST is actively working with the Fairtrade Foundation to develop its fairtrade product offer and support the marketing of fairtrade products.

The following fairtrade products are generally available for purchase at the Department's staff catering facilities:

Orange juice

Tea

Coffee

Biscuits

Chocolate

Flapjacks

Cereal bars

Fairtrade tea and coffee is standard for official receptions and meetings.

The total value and proportion of revenue this represents, in respect of fairtrade products purchased at the Department's staff catering facilities for each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

Period covered (April to March)	*Total value of fairtrade product sales (£)*	*Proportion of revenue (Percentage)*
2005-06	200,500.00	2.3
2006-07	366,102.00	4.4
2007-08	650,858.75	8.8

Harrington Scheme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements his Department has made for the availability of funding to the Harrington scheme in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency following the transfer of the relevant budget to local authority control; and if he will make a statement. [208263]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department's White Paper "Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver" laid out plans for transfer of funding for learning for 16 to 19-year-olds from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities from September 2010.

As with the current system, under the new arrangement providers such as the Harrington scheme would continue to receive funding for young people to attend their provision whether or not they are resident in the local authority area where the provision is based.

National Insurance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the longest period of time between application for and the issuing of a national insurance number has been in 2008 to date. [206096]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 16 May 2008]*: The longest period of time between application for and the issuing of a national insurance number in 2008 to date is 96 working days.

Pension Credit: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received pensioners credit in Leeds West constituency in each year since the inception of the benefit. [209207]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Number of households recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency

November each year	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2003	3,630	4,230
2004	4,480	5,330
2005	4,590	5,470
2006	4,670	5,580
2007	4,630	5,530

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pension Disability and Carers Service: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the *(a)* creation and *(b)* branding of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service. [211131]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There was no additional cost. The direct cost of creating Pension, Disability and Carers Service was £0.2 million, met from the combined pre-merger operating budgets of The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service. This cost represents 0.003 per cent. of the new Agency's annual operating budget. To date there has been no formal branding of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service as the two former agencies have retained their separate identities for providing their service to customers.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 727W, on social security benefits, of those of working age and claiming incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, how many initiated their claim *(a)* before and *(b)* in or after 1997, broken down by (i) region and (ii) parliamentary constituency. [198777]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library. In addition our analysis shows that only around 11 per cent. of those flowing on in 1997 are still claiming incapacity benefits today.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pension, (1) how much benefit overpayment resulting from *(a)* customer and *(b)* official error there has been in each year since 1997; what proportion of such payments related to 9i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance, (iii) income support and jobseeker's allowance combined, (iv) pension credit and (v) housing benefit in each year; and what proportion of total payments of each benefit such overpayments represented in each year; [207301]

(2) how much overpaid benefit was subsequently recovered in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit. [207302]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is only available in the requested format for those benefits administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. Housing Benefit is administered by local authorities and is not available in the same format.

The information is only available from 2001, and the data is rounded to the nearest £1 million where appropriate.

Overpayments in category (iii) above, Income support and Jobseeker's Allowance combined, are not recorded as a separate entity and data relating to those overpayments will be included in the benefit specific data.

Prior to April 2006, not all overpayments arising due to official error were formally calculated and recorded. Under an agreement with HM Treasury, known as Easements, these, along with small value overpayments not considered cost effective to pursue, were recorded separately on the basis of estimated values. The value recorded in the easements initiative in shown for each year—although this is not broken down by benefit.

Prior to 2005-06 overpayments identified by the Recovery from Estates Unit were recorded separately. (The unit is responsible for the recovery of overpaid means tested benefits identified after death following check of probate records.) Unfortunately, these cannot be broken down by benefit.

Otherwise, the data supplied is based on actual values of official error and customer error detected and recorded by the Department.

The Department also publishes estimates of overpayments in the Resource Account and in National Statistics publications.

Copies of two recent such reports: Fraud and Error in the Benefit System from April 2006 to March 2007, and Fraud and Error in the Benefit System from October 2006 to September 2007 have been placed in the House of Commons Library. These are based on detailed examination of a random sample of benefit claims and are an estimate of all error, whether it was detected by normal departmental processes or not. The differences in definition mean that the two sets of figures are not comparable.

2001-02

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	190	64	1.3	6	23	0.04	1.4
JSA(C)	0.7	0.24	0.15	0.01	0.04	0.002	0.15
JSA(IB)	22	7	1	0.3	1	0.012	1
Other benefits	83	28	0.1	19	75	0.024	0.13
Total	296	—	—	[1]25	—	—	—

Note:
Amounts not captured:
[1]Estimated amount recorded in easements; £96 million
Recorded by the Recoveries from Estates team; £17 million.
Total overpayments recorded; £434 million.

2002-03

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	175	64	1.2	5	26	0.03	1.3
JSA(C)	0.8	0.3	0.15	0.017	0.1	0.003	0.15
JSA(IB)	22	8	1	0.25	1	0.01	1
Other benefits	78	28	0.09	14	73	0.01	0.11
Total	275			[1]19			

Note:
Amounts not captured:
[1] Estimated amount recorded in easements; £105 million.
Recorded by the Recoveries from Estates team; £19 million.
Total overpayments recorded; £418 million.

2003-04

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	153	63	1.5	3	16	0.03	1.5
JSA(C)	0.7	0.3	0.14	0.019	0.09	0.003	0.14
JSA(IB)	22	9	1	0.2	0.79	0.008	1
PC	0.14	0.06	0.002	0.2	1	0.004	0.007
Other benefits	69	28	0.09	18	82	0.02	0.11
Total	245	—	—	[1]21	—	—	—

Note:
Amounts not captured:
[1] Estimated amount recorded in easements; £78 million.
Recorded by the Recoveries from Estates team; £19 million.
Total overpayments recorded; £363 million.

2004-05

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	162	62	1.6	2	5	0.01	1.6
JSA(C)	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.01	0.03	0.002	0.12
JSA(IB)	26	10	1	0.11	0.35	0.006	1
PC	2	0.9	0.03	3	10	0.05	0.09
Other benefits	70	27	0.08	27	84	0.001	0.12
Total	260	—	—	[1]32	—	—	—

Note:

Amounts not captured:

[1] Estimated amount recorded in easements; £96 million.

Recorded by the Recoveries from Estates team; £20 million.

Total overpayments recorded: £408 million.

2005-06

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	190	67	2.1	9	7	0.09	2.2
JSA(C)	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.01	0.01	0.002	0.17
JSA(IB)	23	8	1.3	0.25	0.2	0.01	1.3
PC	6	2	0.08	30	23	0.46	0.55
Other benefits	62	22	0.07	90	70	0.06	0.18
Total	282	—	—	[1]129	—	—	—

Note:

Amounts not captured:

Estimated amount recorded in easements: £98 million.

Total overpayments recorded: £509 million.

2006-07

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	273	59	3	51	26	0.6	3.7
JSA(C)	2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.08	0.5
JSA(IB)	27	6	1.4	3	1	0.15	1.5
PC	60	13	0.9	31	16	0.5	1.1
Other benefits	101	22	0.1	129	54	0.14	0.27
Total	463	—	—	214	—	—	—

Note:

Total overpayments recorded: £677 million.

20007-08

	Customer Error			*Official Error*			
	Value of overpayments (£ million)	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*Value of overpayments (£ million)*	*Percentage of total overpaid*	*Percentage of total of each benefit paid*	*All overpayments as percentage of total each benefit paid*
IS	243	63	2.8	67	31	0.8	3.6
JSA(C)	2	0.5	0.48	1	0.47	0.24	0.73
JSA(IB)	24	6	1	6	3	0.33	1.7
PC	32	8	0.44	25	12	0.34	0.78
Other benefits	83	22	0.09	116	54	0.12	0.2
Total	384	—	—	215	—	—	—

Note:

1. Total Overpayments recorded; £ 599 million.
2. Values are rounded to nearest million—unless less than £1 million.
3. The figures given in this answer are actual values of official error and customer error detected and recorded by the Department. The Department also publishes estimates of overpayments in the Resource Account and in National Statistics publications. These are based on detailed examination of a random sample of benefit claims and are an estimate of all error, whether it was detected by normal Departmental processes or not. The differences in definition mean that the two sets of figures are not comparable.
4. Pension Credit was introduced from 6 October 2003, and prior to that, payments would have been made as Income Support.

Amounts recovered by DWP broken down by benefit

Recoveries £ million

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
IS	83.0	79.8	78.5	104.0	100.0	103.2	115.5
JSA(C)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8	1.1
JSA(IB)	8.5	7.7	9.2	17.0	12.5	15.6	15.8
PC	—	—	1.4	2.9	2.8	20.6	30.0

Amounts recovered by DWP broken down by benefit

Recoveries £ million

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
HB	0.9	1.7	2.2	3.3	3.2	6.6	4.0
Other benefits	95.3	100.5	92.6	61.4	61.7	73.9	88.9
Total	188.0	190.0	184.2	188.8	180.4	220.7	255.3

Social Security Benefits: Publications

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on social security benefits: publications, which benefit claims forms mention services provided by citizens advice bureaux. [212017]

Mrs. McGuire: The following 29 DWP claim forms mention services provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau or are accompanied by notes which mention their services:

AA1 Claim form—February 2007—Attendance Allowance

AA1A Claim form—February 2007—Attendance Allowance

BB1 Claim pack—April 2008—Bereavement Benefit

BI100A—June 2007—Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

BI100PD—June 2007—Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

CSA 1—December 2005—Child Support application Form

CSA 1 (TC)—December 2005—Child Support application form

CSA 1 (CIS)—December 2005—Child Support application form

CSA 1 (NRP)—July 2007—Child Support application form

CSF001—July 2005—Child Support application Form

DLA1 Adult—April 2007—Disability Living Allowance

DLA1 Child—February 2007—Disability Living Allowance

DLA1A Adult—April 2007—Disability Living Allowance

DS700 (1)—October 2007—Carer's Allowance

DS700 (2)—October 2007—Carer's Allowance

DS700 (SP)—October 2007—Carer's Allowance

HCTB1—January 2006—Housing Benefit

HCTB1 (PCA)—April 2005—Housing Benefit

HCTB1 PC—April 2007—Housing Benefit

IB(Y) 1—April 2008—Incapacity Benefit under the Incapacity in youth rules

IB(Y) 22—April 2008—Incapacity Benefit under the incapacity in Youth rules

JSA1(S)—April 2008—Jobseeker's Allowance single people

SC1—April 2008—Incapacity Benefit

SC1 (RR)—April 2008—Renewal claim pack for Incapacity Benefit

SDA1—April 2008—Severe Disablement Allowance

SF100—April 2008—Social Fund Sure Start Maternity Grant

SF300—April 2008—Social Fund Community Care Grant

SF500—April 2008—Social Fund Budgeting Loans

WFP1(R)—July 2007—Winter Fuel past winters

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on training courses for staff in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [210554]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. In the financial year 2007-08, we estimate a total spend of £2.7 million on learning and development across the Department—£813,000 was spent on internally provided courses.

The Department offers a range of corporate skills development including formal off the job training, e-learning and access to a range of learning and coaching materials from our learning and development function. All these are linked to the professional skills for Government agenda and our business and improvement objectives.

The Department has also placed great emphasis on good people management. Provision includes line manager coaching and supporting individuals while learning on the job. This is recognised as the most effective way to learn, apply, and develop skills and knowledge.

Internal programmes are available as follows:

Leadership;

Policy Development Skills—tailored to meet the needs of my Department;

Strategic Thinking;

Analysis and Use of Evidence;

Programme and Project Management;

Contract Management;

Financial Management;

People Management; and

Drafting and Writing Skills.

Dyslexia: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have teachers with specialist dyslexia qualifications. [212062]

Kevin Brennan: This information is not collected centrally. However, on 6 May, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced that we have asked Sir Jim Rose to make recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia. We expect to consider his recommendations early next year.

Some information about teachers' qualifications will be gathered by the school work force census which will start in 2010. The information collected will be limited to ensure we do not place an undue burden on schools. So, although it will not collect information about all training, we expect to be able to provide more data than we currently hold on teacher's qualifications.

The census will be seeking data on relevant qualifications for all teachers. A relevant qualification is any post A-level qualification that the school considers qualifies the teacher or teaching assistant to teach the subjects for which they are timetabled. We expect to see included, as a minimum, teachers' ITT qualifications. For teachers with a PGCE, we are also requesting data on prior degrees. Qualification subjects will be coded using the Joint Academic Council principal subjects code set which includes 'training teachers—special needs'.

Education: Young Offenders Institutions

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 361-4W, on young offenders: education, what training qualifications offered to young offenders aged 10 to 17 years are included under the term 'other'. [212102]

Beverley Hughes: The following training qualifications offered to young offenders aged 10 to 17 years are included under the term 'other' in the answer to PQ number 206891.

Certificate;
CG 3992;
CG6161;
Diploma;
Foundation Award;
Foundation Certificate;
Free Standing Mathematics Qualifications;
Introductory Certificate;
Level 1;
Non Council funded studies;
NVQ/GNVQ Key Skills Unit;
Schedule 2(j) course;
Short Course;
Unitisation Provision.

Educational Visits: Low Incomes

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial help is available to children from low income families wishing to participate in educational school trips abroad, with particular reference to visits to concentration camps. [211267]

Jim Knight: Many local authorities and schools recognise the importance of learning outside the classroom experiences and invest in them to meet the needs of children and young people regardless of their age, abilities or circumstances. It is important for young people to have a range of experiences including those within the school grounds, in the local area and day and residential visits further afield. Many schools arrange educational visits abroad including to concentration camps.

The Department announced on 4 February 2008 that we are providing £4.65 million of continuing support to the Holocaust Educational Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" over the next three years. The project provides an opportunity for two students aged 16-18 from every school and college to participate in a one day visit to Auschwitz and our support makes it significantly cheaper for students who want to take advantage of this valuable educational opportunity.

Educational Visits: Safety

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the recommendations of the report into the Glenridding Beck tragedy have been brought to the attention of *(a)* all teachers accompanying pupils to high-hazard environments and *(b)* those involved in the management and support of such teachers. [211032]

Jim Knight: The Health and Safety Executive, with my Department's assistance, prepared and published in March 2005 a report following the incident in Glenridding Beck when a young pupil died. The criminal investigation had found inappropriate action on the part of the teacher in charge, who was subsequently convicted of manslaughter, and weaknesses in the employer's management system. We drew the attention of school staff and their employers to the report and its recommendations.

This tragedy should not cloud the fact that the huge majority of educational visits of all kinds are run excellently by school staff skilled in risk management and committed to the care of those in their charge.

Extracurricular Activities: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on after-school clubs in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [210754]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. It is for local authorities, working with schools and children service partners, to develop strategies for how funding for extended schools is allocated, depending on local need.

The Department made a total of £840 million available to local authorities and schools between 2003 and 2008 to support start-up of extended services in schools. A further £1.3 billion will be made available over the next three years to support start-up and sustainability of services. Individual local authority allocations are available online at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk.

Other funding is also available to support extended schools, including money available to support personalised learning during and beyond the school day, and money available to support neighbourhood renewal.

Further Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether 16 to 18 year olds in *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* general further education colleges are entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [212000]

Kevin Brennan: Pupils aged 16 to 18 in *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* general further education colleges are not entitled to free school meals. Only pupils registered at maintained schools are eligible to apply for free school meals. My hon. Friend at the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, who is responsible for sixth form colleges and general further education colleges, has advised that they have no plans to provide free meals for students at FE or sixth form colleges.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212109]

Kevin Brennan: There will be no representation, at either ministerial or official level, from my Department at the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1174W, on pre-school education, whether his Department has commissioned research on the developmental appropriateness of early years foundation stage in the last three years. [211170]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not commissioned specific research on the developmental appropriateness of the early years foundation stage in the last three years. It has consulted publicly on the EYFS, and drew on evidence such as the effective provision of pre-school education (EPPE) project. The EYFS carries forward the early learning goals from the existing curriculum guidance for the foundation stage. We have already made it clear that the EYFS will be reviewed as a whole in 2010, once it has had time to bed in. We will consider, as part of that review, whether further research needs to be commissioned.

Special Educational Needs

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what medical conditions are recognised as giving rise to special educational needs; [210739]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of co-morbidity of epilepsy and learning difficulties on educational achievement. [210740]

Kevin Brennan: The Education Act 1996 provides that school aged children have a learning difficulty if they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities generally provided for children of the same age, or if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age. Children who have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them, have special educational needs.

In 2005, in partnership with the Council for Disabled Children, we produced guidance entitled "Including Me" to help local authorities, schools, early years settings and health providers develop policies and procedures to ensure that children with complex health needs can access education and child care. This includes an example of a child experiencing severe episodes of epilepsy having a need identified for a trained Learning Support Assistant at school.

My Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the effects of co-morbidity of epilepsy and learning difficulties on educational achievement. However, the Education Act 1996 requires all schools to use their best endeavours to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs.

Strategy Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff of his Department were seconded to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit at the latest date for which figures are available. [211663]

Kevin Brennan: None.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what account the Government take of changes in the retail price index when deciding pay increases for teachers; [211288]

(2) what recent assessment the Government have made of the appropriateness of teachers' pay structures. [211289]

Jim Knight: It is for the independent School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) to make recommendations on teachers' pay. It will consider the retail prices index (RPI) among other factors before giving its recommendations.

The STRB also considers the appropriateness of teachers' pay structures if directed by the Secretary of State to do so. In its most recent report for example it has recommended changes to pay scales for unattached teachers and future work on teachers' roles and responsibilities to ensure they remain appropriate.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements have been put in place for ensuring the continuity of careers advice services during the period of transition from Connexions to local authorities. [211836]

Beverley Hughes: Funding and responsibility for Connexions services, including careers advice, passed to local authorities on 1 April 2008. Local authorities will be performance managed in their delivery of Connexions in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the 2006 Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'. Local authorities will be judged on outcomes and within this will have the freedom and flexibility to deliver services as they see fit in their particular area.

Vocational Guidance: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex on careers guidance for young people in each of the last five years. [212061]

Beverley Hughes: Connexions provides information, advice and guidance, including careers guidance, to 13-19 year olds and to people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 24.

Up until 1 April 2008, Connexions funding for Essex was allocated to the Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock Partnership, which covered Essex, Southend on Sea and Thurrock LEAs. From 1 April 2008, Connexions funding is being allocated directly to each local authority. The following table shows the amount of central Government funding allocated to the Connexions Service in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in each of the last five years.

Information on the amount spent on careers guidance is not collected centrally. However, an independent study undertaken in 2006 concluded that, on average, around 42 per cent. of a Connexions Partnership's expenditure was on information, advice and guidance. The remainder was for targeted support for young people to address specific needs.

	Connexions service (£ million)
2004-05	[1]13
2005-06	[1]14
2006-07	[1]14
2007-08	[1]14
2008-09	[2][illegible]

[1] Allocated to the Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock Partnership, covering Essex, Southend on Sea and Thurrock LEAs.

[2] Allocated to Essex county council (the figure represents Essex's share of a total £14 million allocated to the three local authorities in the Essex, Southend and Thurrock Partnership area).

In addition, schools have a statutory duty to provide careers education and guidance for their pupils but we do not collect information identifying what school resources are spent on this.

Young Offender Institutions: Social Workers

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future employment of social workers in young offender institutions. [211604]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has committed to funding social worker posts within young offender institutions until March 2009. Future funding arrangements for these important posts is being discussed with the Association of Directors of Children Services.

Youth Services: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors provided to the London borough of Enfield for youth services in the last 10 years; and how much of the funding was spent in Enfield North constituency in each of those years. [209669]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities decide what should be spent, taking into account Government policy and local needs. We do not hold information on spending on youth services below local authority level as that is a matter for the authority. The following table shows how much Enfield has decided to allocate in the last nine years, in both cash and real terms. Data are not available from before 1999-2000.

Budgeted net expenditure by Enfield on youth services[1]

£

	Cash terms	*Real terms*
1999-2000	999,000	1,188,394
2000-01	986,108	1,156,589
2001-02	1,052,333	1,205,408
2002-03	1,121,647	1,245,818
2003-04	1,359,382	1,463,[illegible]32
2004-05	1,440,161	1,512,774
2005-06	1,518,136	1,561,692
2006-07	1,648,564	1,648,564
2007-08[2]	2,023,600	1,959,903

[1] Cash terms figures are converted to real terms (2006-07 prices) using the December 2007 gross domestic product (GDP) deflators.

[2] 2007-08 data remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultations *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are planned, by his Department on the definition of zero carbon. [211922]

Angela Eagle: A consultation on 'The Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes relief) Regulations 2007' which contain the definition of a zero carbon home, ran from mid June 2007 to the end of July 2007. This was an informal consultation with over 200 organisations on technical issues. The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the stamp duty relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 818W, on council tax: valuation, how many dwellings in Wales moved up one or more bands as a result of council tax band amendments subsequent to the 2005 council tax revaluation. [211654]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212070]

Angela Eagle: Although sick absence is recorded separately on the payroll, sick pay is not so the answer can be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Economic Activity: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in economic activity in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency and *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency since 1997. [211847]

Angela Eagle: Since 1997, the Yorkshire and Humber region has benefited from the economic stability that this Government's policies have delivered and has grown by 4.8 per cent. on average in nominal terms. In Cleethorpes, since 1997, claimant count unemployment has fallen by 60 per cent. and long-term unemployment by 94.1 per cent. In Great Grimsby, since 1997, the claimant count has fallen by 46.2 per cent. and long-term unemployment by 90 per cent.

Gateway Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government projects are subject to the Gateway Review process; and what the estimated value is of each project. [211782]

Angela Eagle: The OGC Gateway Process is mandatory for procurement, IT-enabled, and construction programmes and projects in central civil Government. Financial value is only one of the factors considered when deciding on the level of risk faced by a programme or project.

Historically OGC reviews have been carried out on programmes and projects with contract values ranging from several thousand pounds to several billion. This value may increase or decrease over the lifecycle of a project.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the Government projects which have received a *(a)* red and *(b)* amber/red rating in the Gateway reviews in each of the last two years. [211783]

Angela Eagle: An OGC Gateway Review is conducted on a confidential basis for the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and ownership of the report, including it's associated RAG (Red, Amber or Green) status, rests with the SRO. OGC does not, therefore, make this information routinely public.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the Government projects which have been cancelled as a result of the findings of Gateway reviews in each of the last five years. [211785]

Angela Eagle: The Gateway process is intended to provide independent expert advice to the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) of a programme/project on achieving successful delivery; it is not designed to recommend the cancellation of projects.

Gateway information is only part of the assurance advice SROs receive. If a department is considering cancelling a project it will consider all assurance advice available to them.

Government Departments: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the April 2008 target for mandatory benchmarking of buildings performance across the central government estate was met. [211915]

Angela Eagle: Yes. The Office of Government Commerce's Property Benchmarking Service has been mandated from 1 April 2008 for all government office property occupations over 500 sq m (net internal area).

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 913W, on housing: valuation, how many localities there are on average in each individual billing authority. [211666]

Jane Kennedy: There are approximately 10,000 localities covering all the 354 billing authorities in England. Therefore the average number of localities in each billing authority is approximately 28.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual saving to the Exchequer of providing tax relief at the 20 per cent. rate for upper rate tax payers. [211253]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated costs of principal tax expenditures and structural tax reliefs can be found in table 1.5 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm.

The total yield from restricting all reliefs to the basic rate is not readily available.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 980W, on departmental contracts, what costs the Valuation Office Agency incurred in contesting the challenge by GVA Grimley on the business rates assessments of the premises referred to. [211662]

Jane Kennedy: The costs of considering the rating proposals made by GVA Grimley contesting rating assessments were met from funding made available to the Valuation Office Agency to deal with proposals received from ratepayers. The cases were dealt with from existing resources and no additional costs were incurred.

Public Sector: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans there are to increase the amount of public sector data held on the e-PIMS property database; and what plans there are to extend its application to *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* police authorities and *(c)* local authorities. [211917]

Angela Eagle: There are no plans to increase the amount of public sector data held on the e-PIMS property database.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed in the HM Revenue and Customs offices in *(a)* Oban, *(b)* Dunoon and *(c)* Rothesay; and whether members of the public may visit these offices to discuss their tax affairs in person. [211605]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC staff employed in each of the following locations at 1 June 2008 is as follows:

	Number
(a) Oban	2
(b) Dunoon	14
(c) Rothesay	7

The Dunoon and Rothesay offices have inquiry centres which are open to the public. The one at Oban has no facilities for dealing with the public.

Revenue and Customs: Yeovil

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Yeovil. [211996]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC announced on 11 June that it proposes to withdraw from its office in Yeovil, with the exception of its inquiry centre services which will be maintained either from the current building or one nearby. As with all HMRC's proposals, these will be subject to consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including MPs with a constituency interest, and detailed feasibility work will also be undertaken before final decisions are taken. Decisions on the future of all HMRC's offices are expected to be announced by the end of the year.

Tax Evasion: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many petrol filling-station owners have been convicted of selling *(a)* illegally laundered and *(b)* smuggled fuel in Northern Ireland in the last two years; [211331]

(2) how many petrol filling-station owners have been convicted of selling *(a)* illegally laundered and *(b)* smuggled fuel in England in the last two years. [211332]

Jane Kennedy: Five petrol station owners have been prosecuted in Northern Ireland for selling illegally laundered and smuggled fuel in the last two years; in all instances the stations were selling combinations of illegally laundered and smuggled fuel. Three of the owners, who pleaded guilty, were served with the UK's first Serious Crime Prevention Orders which prohibits them from dealing in oils in any manner for five years and also directed them to submit signed affidavits disclosing their entire assets/financial affairs. They have also been served with Confiscation Orders totalling £1.2 million.

No petrol filling-station owners have been convicted of selling illegally laundered or smuggled fuel in England in the last two years.

The number of people convicted in relation to hydrocarbon oils fraud in Northern Ireland during the period 2007-08 will be published in the HMRC autumn performance Report 2008, later this year.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to publish the findings of the multinational forum on tax. [208750]

Jane Kennedy: The forum has agreed to publish summaries of the forum's discussions and related documents.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the remit is of the multinational forum on tax. [208751]

Jane Kennedy: The forum's remit is to discuss ways in which the business tax system can provide the long-term certainty that multinational companies need, considering competitiveness and other challenges facing both business and government.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the multinational forum on tax *(a)* has met and *(b)* is scheduled to meet in the next three months. [208752]

Jane Kennedy: The forum's first meeting was 9 June. The next meeting will be arranged shortly after summer recess.

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for his Department's assessment, expressed to the Chief Executive of the Bingo Association by letter dated 12 March, that tax is not at the root of the bingo industry's problem. [212101]

Angela Eagle: The Government's assessment that tax is not at the root of the bingo industry's problems is based on evidence from a number of sources, including data on the number of bingo clubs and on bingo stakes, commercial sector reports on the bingo industry, and representations from the bingo industry. The assessment noted the need for the bingo industry to adapt to the smoke free legislation and the impact of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. It concluded that the industry's problems are a product of a combination of factors including greater competition in the leisure sector and changing tastes in leisure activities.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the online system for filing tax returns; what assessment he has made of the effect of promoting the online system on those people who prefer to submit paper returns, with particular reference to older people; and if he will make a statement. [211050]

Jane Kennedy: Lord Carter's Review of HMRC's online services found that there are benefits for businesses, individuals and for Government from the use of online services for filing tax returns. The Government expect recurrent net savings of up to £80 million a year for businesses and taxpayers once Lord Carter's recommendations are implemented in full, and around £70 million a year in net benefits for Government. HMRC published a full regulatory impact assessment in March 2007 which sets out the estimated benefits and efficiencies.

All self-assessment customers may still submit a paper return. HMRC has improved and simplified it so it is easier to complete. The deadline for filing a paper return has, however, moved to 31 October. HMRC is undertaking a marketing campaign, which includes media widely used by older people to make customers aware of the earlier deadline for filing a paper self-assessment return.

Online returns must be filed by 31 January. HMRC has provided a number of support options for those that choose to file online. One of these is a detailed guide on how to file online, which has been tested with a wide range of HMRC's customers, including older people.

VAT: Crown Dependencies

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans next to review the effects upon mainland businesses of the low value consignment relief from value added tax for imports from the Channel Islands; and against what criteria the relief will be reviewed. [211369]

Jane Kennedy: Import VAT is not chargeable on commercial consignments of goods with a value below £18 that are imported into the UK from outside the EU ("low value consignment relief"). As with all taxes, the Government keep the operation of this relief under review, and take into account a wide range of factors, including the revenue effect, competitiveness of UK businesses, the resource requirements of Royal Mail and HMRC, and the practicality of enforcing any changes to the relief.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the effects of low value consignment relief from value added tax for imports from the Channel Islands. [211458]

Jane Kennedy: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the value of *(a)* food supplements and herbal remedies and *(b)* recorded music and films imported annually from the Crown dependencies without the imposition of value added tax under the low value consignment relief scheme; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this trade upon mainland specialist high street retailers; [211472]

(2) what estimate he has made of the tax foregone by the Exchequer as a result of the provision of low value consignment relief from value added tax for personal imports from Crown dependencies; for what reasons the relief is provided; and if he will make a statement. [211473]

Jane Kennedy: The relief reduces administrative costs for businesses, HM Revenue and Customs, the authorised postal carrier (Royal Mail), express carriers and consumers by removing the requirement to pay VAT on large volumes of low value packages.

As set out in PBR 2006 the total cost of the low value consignment relief is estimated at around £90 million. HMRC tentatively estimates that around three quarters of this cost is attributable to imports from the Crown dependencies.

Although HMRC collects data on the total aggregate value of goods imported from many companies in the Crown dependencies these data are not broken down into individual products such as food supplements and herbal remedies or recorded music and films.

As the then Paymaster General said on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 146WH, it is not clear that the competitive pressures on small retailers are solely or even mainly related to the VAT relief enjoyed by offshore online retailers. It is difficult to disaggregate the effect of the relief from other factors, such as the substantial growth of supermarket sales, and rapid technological change in the case of the market for audio-visual products, which are increasingly sold in download form over the internet. The Channel Islands authorities have, however, applied their regulatory powers to prevent the establishment of new businesses on the Islands where these are simply attempting to take advantage of the relief, and in the case of Jersey have required several businesses to leave.

Welfare Tax Credit: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in the city of Sunderland were in receipt of each category of tax credit in 2007-08. [211341]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards in 2006-07 in each local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards 2006-07. Geographical analyses'. This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

The same information for 2007-08 is not yet available because awards have not yet been finalised. However, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, based on provisional awards, by local authority, as at 5 April 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical analyses. April 2008'. This is also available on the HMRC website at the same address.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the administrative costs to employers of implementing the changes to tax allowances announced on 13 May 2008. [211745]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 437W to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, on tax credits, what the highest possible income is that a family which does not claim disability element for any children or adults may receive while being eligible for the child care element of the working tax credit with *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* more than four children. [211959]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the first row of the table provided in the answer I gave him on 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1630W.

Working Tax Credit

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with children aged between one and five years have been awarded the childcare element of the working tax credit since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [211467]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, by age group of children, including those under five years, at selected dates are published in Table 4.4 of the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics'. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

JUSTICE

Drugs: Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* given a custodial sentence for dealing in (i) heroin, (ii) cocaine, (iii) ecstasy and (iv) LSD in each of the last 10 years. [211544]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number of people proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody for dealing in heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and LSD in each of the last 10 years are in the following tables.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and given immediate custody for dealing in Heroin, Cocaine, Ecstasy and LSD, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	1997			1998		
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- Heroin	1,304	789	650	[illegible]	892	737
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-Heroin	1,265	744	604	1,411	822	656
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug.(or being concerned in):- Cocaine	342	137	102	433	223	161
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-Cocaine	471	291	228	502	334	260
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- MDMA	442	310	228	308	246	179
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-MDMA	787	544	410	410	304	217
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):-LSD	54	39	27	32	33	24
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-LSD	116	71	51	88	96	62

Offence	*1999*			*2000*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- Heroin.	1,869	1,144	953	1,643	1,209	1,049
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-Heroin.	1,483	883	741	1,476	900	769
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug,(or being concerned in):- Cocaine.	487	322	262	437	258	192
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-Cocaine	578	346	282	664	364	295
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- MDMA	408	231	173	545	326	231
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-MDMA.	693	451	338	1,081	725	508
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):-LSD	27	18	5	13	13	10
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-LSD.	56	37	30	24	17	10

Offence	*2001*			*2002*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- Heroin.	1,909	1,203	1,000	1,643	1,234	1,044
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-Heroin.	1,727	1,004	848	1,600	962	774
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug,(or being concerned in):- Cocaine.	591	300	235	593	371	311
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-Cocaine	869	456	359	980	554	430
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- MDMA	528	376	252	399	365	216
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-MDMA.	1,352	960	690	1,064	830	578
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):-LSD	7	4	1	11	7	3
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-LSD.	20	9	5	8	4	4

Offence	*2003*			*2004*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- Heroin.	1,698	1,308	1,095	1,612	1,415	1,164
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-Heroin.	1,628	1,100	884	1,498	1,175	913
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug,(or being concerned in):- Cocaine.	675	456	409	645	446	371
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-Cocaine	1,015	687	564	1,060	792	658
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- MDMA	306	219	127	261	172	100
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-MDMA.	947	746	461	726	603	394

	2003			2004		
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):-LSD	3	3	1	5	0	0
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-LSD.	15	6	3	15	10	9

	2005			2006		
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- Heroin.	1,649	1,305	902	1,494	1,181	810
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-Heroin.	1,541	1,123	848	1,391	1,103	847
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug,(or being concerned in):- Cocaine.	808	490	316	782	502	358
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-Cocaine	1,140	956	748	1,332	1,006	774
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):- MDMA	245	187	91	207	169	81
Having possession of a controlled drug (with intent to supply:-MDMA.	649	557	342	582	434	256
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in):-LSD	12	10	4	5	2	0
Having possession of a controlled drug , with intent to supply:-LSD.	16	9	5	8	5	4

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Elections

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many man hours were spent by officials in his Department on issues relating to *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* voters under-registration in each of the last three years. [211510]

Bridget Prentice: Officials deal with these issues and other electoral policy issues on a regular basis. However, detailed information is not kept on the man-hours spent on specific policy areas and it is therefore not possible to provide the information sought.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations his Department and its predecessor received on *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* voters under-registration in each of the last three years. [211511]

Bridget Prentice: The number of representations which my Department has received between 1 January 2006 to 16 June 2008 on *(a)* postal voting fraud and *(b)* voter under-registration is as follows:

Subject	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total number of representations*[1]
Postal Voting Fraud	19	19	15	53
Voter Under-registration	14	0	29	43

[1] This is an approximate number of representations which is comprised of letters from members of Parliament, parliamentary questions and publications which the Department has received on postal voting fraud and under-registration.

Elections: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of *(a)* postal vote fraud and *(b)* other electoral fraud were detected in (i) European elections, (ii) parliamentary elections and (iii) local elections in the UK in each of the last 30 years. [211401]

Bridget Prentice: In it's report entitled "Allegations of Electoral Malpractice in England and Wales 2000 to 2006", the Electoral Commission confirmed that the number and type of allegations of electoral malpractice reported to the Crown Prosecution Service between 2000 to 2006 were as follows:

	Electoral administration and registration	*Election campaigning*	*Voting (e.g. personation, treating)*	*All allegations*
2000	4	37	7	50
2001	2	56	10	66
2002	2	46	11	59
2003	4	70	16	90
2004	2	39	17	59
2005	4	32	24	59
2006	2	11	6	19
Total	20	291	91	402

We are continuing to work closely with the Electoral Commission, police, political parties and returning officers to raise awareness and strengthen systems to ensure that fraud is detected and prosecuted.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities employed doorstep canvassers to compile the 2008 electoral register; and if he will make a statement. [211374]

Bridget Prentice: It is not known how many local authorities employed doorstep canvassers during the 2007 annual canvass, as this information is not collected centrally. However, section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 allows the Electoral Commission (EC) to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. The Commission is currently undertaking a consultation on performance standards for electoral registration officers and one of the proposed standards relates to house to house inquiries which will identify the local authorities using doorstep canvassers. The consultation ends on the 20 June and the Commission intends to publish the final set of standards during July 2008.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which local authority areas those wishing to register to vote are able to do so by telephone. [211375]

Bridget Prentice: No local authorities are able to register new electors by telephone, as a signature is required on the registration form. However, some local authorities allow electors who have registered under signature in the previous year to confirm their details, including others living in the household, by telephone where no changes to the registration are required.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much *(a)* the Government have and *(b)* local authorities have spent on advertising for voter registration in the last 12 months; [211468]

(2) how much funding has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by each local authority area on electoral registration in the last 12 months; [211477]

(3) how much was spent on electoral registration in each local authority area in *(a)* total and *(b)* per elector in each of the last 11 years; [211478]

(4) how much was spent per elector on voter registration in each local authority area ranked in descending order, in the most recent year for which figures are available. [211514]

Bridget Prentice: Funding for electoral registration activities such as advertising is included in the local authority formula grant issued by central Government. Once these funds are allocated, decisions on how it is utilised are a matter for the local authorities concerned. It is not known how much was spent in total or per elector for electoral registration in the last 11 years, as these figures are not collected, and thus no rankings are available.

However, section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 allows the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. In developing standards the Commission undertook a data collection exercise with all electoral registration officers (EROs) in Great Britain following the 2007 annual canvass and published results on 30 April 2008. At the same time EROs were asked to supply financial data by 31 July 2008. These results are expected to be published by autumn 2008 and should give us a better understanding of the costs of electoral registration in Great Britain for the last financial year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for variations in levels of electoral registration between different local authorities; [211479]

(2) if he will commission research on the effects of levels of functional illiteracy in the population on electoral registration rates; [211508]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of those eligible to vote but not registered to do so in each parliamentary constituency. [211512]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made any assessment of the reasons for variations in the levels of electoral registration between different local authorities and there are no plans at present to commission research on the effects of functional illiteracy in the population on electoral registration rates. The Government have not made any estimate of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency.

The Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote in their report, Understanding Electoral Registration, which was published in September 2005. However the number of electors registered in the UK continues to grow and between 2 December 2006 and 1 December 2007 the number of parliamentary electors grew by 307,669 to 45,082,854; and the number of local government electors grew by 463,340 to 45,920,503.

The Electoral Administration Act includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for electoral registration officers. The Electoral Commission are currently developing these standards and the final set of standards will be published in July 2008. A copy of these standards which will be laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will give us a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish the guidelines issued by his Department to electoral registration officers on home visits to electors who have not registered to vote; and what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with such guidelines; [211509]

(2) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on increasing the rate of voter registration; and if he will produce a league table to indicate each local authority's performance in increasing the rate of voter registration in their area. [211521]

Bridget Prentice: Responsibility for issuing guidance to electoral registration officers on electoral registration lies with the Electoral Commission and thus my Department has not made any assessment of the level of compliance with guidelines for home visits.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once and making house visits.

The Act includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance measures for electoral registration officers. The Electoral Commission is currently developing these standards and the final standards will be published in July 2008, a copy of which will be laid before the House. This will give us a better understanding of the actions being taken to increase registration.

The Office for National Statistics has recently published electoral registration rates for the UK, following the 2007 annual canvass, which confirm that the number of parliamentary electors grew by 307,669 to 45,082,854; and the number of local government electors grew by 463,340 to 45,920,503.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider introducing proposals to amend data protection legislation to allow local and national Government bodies to share information in order to increase voter registration. [211513]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently no plans to amend data protection legislation to allow local and national Government bodies to share information but we will keep this under review. However, under section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, electoral registration officers are required to take all necessary steps to register eligible electors and were granted the powers to inspect records held by any person that the ERO is permitted to inspect.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: we want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether varying levels of voter registration in specific areas will be taken into account in future boundary reviews. [211515]

Bridget Prentice: In accordance with the rules governing reviews of parliamentary constituencies, set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the boundary commissions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will base their recommendations on the number of electors on the electoral register at the start of the review. The Government agreed in their response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Eleventh report, "Review of the Electoral Commission", that it would be appropriate to review the current legislation in relation to the conduct of parliamentary boundary work. Any review is likely to consider the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Parc Prison: Foreigners

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on Parc Prison: mental health services, how many foreign nationals remained in custody in Parc Prison after the expiration of their sentences in each of the last 12 months. [211485]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of foreign national detainees that remained in custody at HMP and YOI Parc after their sentence had expired, for each of the last eight months, is provided in the following table. A total of eight detainees have been held past their sentence expiry date. Information prior to November 2007 is not recorded and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

	Detainees
November 2007	0
December 2007	1
January 2008	1
February 2008	1
March 2008	0
April 2008	3
May 2008	1
June 2008[1]	1

[1] Provided as at 9 June 2008.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to implement the changes to the personal injury compensation system which were published in April 2007. [211276]

Bridget Prentice: A summary of responses and the Government's next steps will be set out in the "Response to Consultation: Case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims", which will be published as soon as possible.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were for each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08; what the cost was for each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement; [189663]

(2) how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189664]

Mr. Straw: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The Office of the Public Guardian is an agency of the MOJ, formed on 1 October 2007, replacing the Public Guardianship Office which was also an agency. Neither office has ever had a Press Office or press officers. Work is handled by the MOJ Press Office.

The Boundary Commission for England is an advisory non-departmental public body sponsored by MOJ. It does not have a press office and all queries are dealt with by its Secretariat.

The Boundary Commission for Wales does not have a Press Office nor a designated Press Officer at the Boundary Commission for Wales. The total annual cost of the Press Office for BCW has been therefore nil for each year since 2001 (prior to this the work of the BCW was administered by the Boundary Commission for England).

The JAC began operation in April 2006. From April 2006 to September 2007 the JAC employed a communications advisor whose role included a 20 per cent. element of press work. The function is now shared as part of other roles within the JAC Communications team and accounts for about 20 per cent. of the time of one grade 7 officer and 10 per cent. of a senior information officer.

Information regarding cost of Press Offices and numbers of press officers from agencies and NDPBs has been supplied by the individual organisations to the fullest extent possible, with regard to the historical nature of the question.

With regard to the Ministry of Justice entry, prior to 2006-07, Press Office finances were recorded as part of the overall Communications Directorate budget. Therefore, specific Press Office costs prior to 2006-07 are unavailable. Press Office headcount figures prior to 2006-07 are unavailable.

Probation Board

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will request the Probation Board to engage in negotiations on pay, terms and conditions with its staff representatives. [211219]

Maria Eagle: The Probation Association representing the 42 em[illegible]ng probation boards and trusts are in negotiatio[illegible] NAPO and Unison through the established forum o[illegible]e National Probation Service National Negotiating Council the latest meeting of which is being held on 12 June. Negotiators are trying to agree an award that is acceptable to both the employers and the trade unions. This year's pay round follows on a three year pay modernisation programme that saw substantial increases in the pay of probation staff .

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in England were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of serious sexual assault in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [211336]

(2) how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) assault and (ii) sexual assault on teachers in England in each of the last three years, broken down by region; [211344]

(3) how many people in England were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of serious sexual assault in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [211352]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to serious sexual assault, in England and Wales by region, for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on prosecutions and convictions does not include details on the victim of a crime. It is therefore not possible to supply data showing the number of people prosecuted and convicted of assault and sexual assault on teachers.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice does not hold information on details surrounding a case such as the profession of the victim.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to serious sexual assault, in England and Wales by region, 2004-06[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against			Found guilty		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	158	315	341	51	106	156
North West	512	890	848	127	330	409
Yorkshire and Humberside	347	534	499	134	262	281
East Midlands	304	510	442	91	173	197
West Midlands	475	605	668	130	258	268
East of England	313	465	429	75	180	179
London	657	1,108	1,154	145	294	404
South East	380	668	668	88	207	262
South West	214	358	375	65	144	177
Wales	263	315	284	69	114	94
England and Wales	3,623	5,768	5,708	975	2,068	2,427

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions :
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Rape of a male aged 16 or over
Attempted rape of a female aged under 16
Attempted rape of a female aged 16 or over
Attempted rape of a male aged under 16.
Attempted rape of a male aged 16 or over
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.2
Assault on a male by penetration
Assault on a female by penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.3
Sexual assault on a male.
Sexual assault on a female.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male
Attempted rape of a female child under 13 by a male
Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male
Assault of a male child under 13 by penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6
Assault of a female child under 13 by penetration
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7
Sexual assault of a female child under 13
Sexual assault of a male child under 13

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Young Offender Institutions: Social Services

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many social workers are employed inside juvenile prisons. [211360]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families currently funds 20 social worker posts within young offender institutions. 15 of these posts are currently filled and five are vacant. Measures are being taken to fill these vacancies.

DEFENCE

Absent Without Leave

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many personnel went absent without leave in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2003; [211969]

(2) how many armed forces personnel went absent without leave in each year since 2003. [211977]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows absence without leave statistics by calendar year for each service since 2003:

	RN	*Army*	*RAF*
2003	120	2,820	35
2004	185	3,030	55
2005	195	2,715	35
2006	155	2,330	10
2007	115	2,275	25
2008	45	900	5

Notes:
1. All services record AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number of people who are represented more than once in these figures.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are as at 16 June 2008.
3. Differences in figures for individual years compared to previous answers occur because personnel may have been wrongly reported as AWOL in the first instance, or conversely they may have subsequently been found to have been AWOL and the records rectified later.

No Royal Navy or Royal Air Force personnel have been reported as absent without leave in Iraq or Afghanistan. For the Army, information on geographical location is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were dismissed from the armed forces due to drug abuse in each year since 2003, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* service. [211970]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is provided in the following table. Figures for the Army are not available by rank.

Number discharged following a positive result at compulsory drug testing

Year/Rank	*RN (including RM)*	*Army*	*RAF*
2003			
Junior Rates/Ranks	50	n/a	20
Warrant Officers/Senior Rates/Senior Non Commissioned Officers	0	n/a	0
Officers and Cadets	0	n/a	0
Total	50	406	20
2004			
Junior Rates/Ranks	46	n/a	22
Warrant Officers/Senior Rates/Senior Non Commissioned Officers	1	n/a	0
Officers and Cadets	0	n/a	0
Total	47	423	22
2005			
Junior Rates/Ranks	39	n/a	20
Warrant Officers/Senior Rates/Senior Non Commissioned Officers	0	n/a	0
Officers and Cadets	0	n/a	0

Number discharged following a positive result at compulsory drug testing

Year/Rank	*RN (including RM)*	*Army*	*RAF*
Total	39	573	20
2006			
Junior Rates/Ranks	46	n/a	14
Warrant Officers/Senior Rates/Senior Non Commissioned Officers	1	n/a	0
Officers and Cadets	0	n/a	0
Total	47	608	14
2007			
Junior Rates/Ranks	42	n/a	12
Warrant Officers/Senior Rates/Senior Non Commissioned Officers	1	n/a	0
Officers and Cadets	0	n/a	0
Total	43	610	12

Armed Forces: Flood Control

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were deployed to assist those affected by flooding in England and Wales during 2007. [211968]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces provided assistance to the civil authorities on two occasions in 2007: in June during the flooding in Yorkshire and Humberside region and in July in the south west.

In June 2007, during flooding in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, approximately 100 personnel drawn from the Army and the Royal Air Force were involved. In July 2007, during flooding in the south west, a total of approximately 1,000 personnel drawn from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force were involved. This consisted of about 350 personnel deployed at any one time. All personnel were deployed at the request of the Environment Agency, and undertook tasks such as search and rescue, construction of emergency flood defences and the distribution of bulk and bottled water.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of the defence budget was spent on service pay in each of the last five years. [211506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is shown in the outturn figures for service salary and wages for 2003-04 to 2006-07 can be found in the departmental annual report and accounts. The relevant information is provided in the following table.

	Service pay outturn (£ million)	*Department total resource outturn (£ million)*	*Percentage of service pay against total outturn*
2006-07	8,422.935	34,004.995	24.77
2005-06	8,262.776	34,862.134	23.70
2004-05	8,047.195	32,561.830	24.71
2003-04	7,973.835	34,651.226	23.01

Figures for 2007-08 will be published in the annual report and accounts later this year.

Armed Forces: Working Hours

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many on-duty hours as defined by the Defence Analytical Services Agency the *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Army and *(d)* Royal Air Force undertook in each of the last five years. [210654]

Derek Twigg: Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carry out a continuous sample survey of working patterns of service personnel.

The 2006-07 Survey of Continuous Working Patterns report provides estimates of the average number of hours spent on-duty per week which is available in the Library of the House.

The 2007-08 report is currently being compiled and is expected to be ready towards the end of 2008.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps, (iii) Royal Artillery, (iv) Royal Engineers, (v) Royal Signals, (vi) infantry, (vii) Army Air Corps, (viii) Royal Army Chaplains Department, (ix) Royal Logistics Corps, (x) Royal Army Medical Corps, (xi) Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, (xii) Adjutant General's Corps, (xiii) Royal Army Veterinary Corps, (xiv) Small Arms School Corps, (xv) Royal Army Dentistry Corps, (xvi) Intelligence Corps, (xvii) Army Physical Training Corps and (xviii) Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps personnel was in each year since 1997. [210656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows total intake and outflow for Territorial personnel during the period 1 October 2003 to 28 February 2007. October 2003 is the earliest date for which reliable TA inflow and outflow is available.

Inflow and outflow of Territorial Army officers and soldiers by calendar year[1, 2, 3, 4]

Calendar year	*Inflow*[5]	*Outflow*[6]
2003 (1 October to 31 December)	3,360	2,370
2004	7,690	9,410
2005	8,650	8,240
2006	8,560	9,920
2007 (1 January to 28 February[7])	1,020	1,700

Notes:

[1] The data exclude full-time Reserve Service (FTRS), non-regular permanent staff (NRPS) and mobilised TA but includes the Officer Training Corps (OTC).

[2] The data are based on flows during the period 1 October 2003 to 31 December 2003, calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006, and the period 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2007.

[3] The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 'five' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

[4] Figures are for both officers and soldiers.

[5] Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.

[6] Outflow figures exclude those personnel who became mobilised.

[7] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new joint personnel administration (JPA) system, there is no TA flows information available since 1 March 2007.

The following tables show the inflow and outflow of the specified arms and service of the Regular Army by financial year since 1 April 1997.

Officer and soldier intake[1] from civilian life to UK Regular Army[2] by specified arm service and financial year from 1997

	Financial year of intake										
Arm service	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[3]*	*2007-08*
Royal Armoured Corp	630	840	750	740	730	780	600	290	610	630	[4]—
Royal Regiment of Artillery	1,100	1,440	1,400	1,090	1,030	970	1,040	860	790	890	[4]—
Corps of Royal Engineers	1,160	1,200	1,140	1,200	1,340	1,580	1,120	950	1,460	1,270	[4]—
Royal Corps of Signals	1,360	1,220	1,280	1,120	990	1,200	1,070	800	780	730	[4]—
Infantry	5,400	6,240	6,180	5,490	5,240	5,230	4,880	3,590	3,620	3,990	[4]—
Army Air Corps	90	260	230	180	180	180	360	260	240	180	[4]—
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	10	10	20	10	10	10	[5]—	10	10	10	[4]—
The Royal Logistics Corps	2,460	2,730	2,290	1,930	2,140	2,890	2,430	2,270	2,190	1,900	[4]—
Royal Army Medical Corps	290	330	350	330	320	370	410	370	420	400	[4]—
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	980	940	990	1,090	1,310	1,540	1,460	1,100	1,290	1,250	[4]—
Adjutant General's Corps	860	760	620	450	490	710	670	410	280	320	[4]—
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	30	20	50	[4]—
Small Arms School Corps	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[4]—
Royal Army Dental Corps	40	40	40	50	50	40	20	20	30	50	[4]—
Intelligence Corps	100	140	120	160	130	100	110	110	160	170	[4]—
Army Physical Training Corps	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[4]—
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	80	110	110	100	80	140	90	80	70	50	[4]—
Total intake[6]	15,480	17,000	16,590	14,820	14,930	16,690	15,260	11,720	12,730	[7]14,300	[7]14,520

[1] Figures show all intake to UK Regular Army including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

[2] UK Regular Army excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Ghurkhas, the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

[3] 2006-07 Arm Service split contains 11 months data due to the implementation of the JPA system.

[4] Denotes unavailable.

[5] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

[6] The total intake figures contain all Arm Services, which includes the Household Cavalry Regiment, Corps of Army Music, the Long Service List and personnel with no Arm Service recorded on their Record of Service. Due to the implementation of the JPA system the Arm Service split is not yet available for financial year 2007-08. Excludes transfers into and out of Arm Service.

[7] Denotes provisional.

Notes:

1. Due to the ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 'five' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Officer and soldier outflow[1] to civilian life from UK Regular Army[2] by specified Arm Service and financial year from 1997

	Financial year of outflow										
Arm Service	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[3]*	*2007-08*
Royal Armoured Corp	610	810	740	760	670	750	780	720	750	720	[4]—
Royal Regiment of Artillery	1,110	1,390	1,340	1,220	1,120	1,130	1,210	1,190	1,040	1,200	[4]—
Corps of Royal Engineers	1,320	1,320	1,180	1,090	1,480	1,170	1,300	1,430	1,440	1,250	[4]—
Royal Corps of Signals	1,400	1,340	1,150	1,320	1,150	1,000	1,010	1,070	1,030	960	[4]—
Infantry	4,670	5,990	5,980	5,200	5,080	4,920	4,900	4,810	4,500	4,560	[4]—
Army Air Corps	170	210	200	170	210	180	200	270	230	230	[4]—
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	10	10	10	10	[5]—	10	10	10	10	10	[4]—
The Royal Logistics Corps	2,470	2,740	2,620	2,520	2,120	2,450	2,350	2,390	2,160	2,330	[4]—
Royal Army Medical Corps	240	320	250	290	310	280	280	340	320	300	[4]—
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1,120	1,120	1,110	1,140	1,040	1,210	1,160	1,300	1,280	1,140	[4]—

Officer and soldier outflow[1] to civilian life from UK Regular Army[2] by specified Arm Service and financial year from 1997

	Financial year of outflow										
Arm Service	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[3]	*2007-08*
Adjutant General's Corps	700	920	850	750	750	780	800	760	750	710	[4]—
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20	20	20	20	30	20	20	20	30	20	[4][illegible]
Small Arms School Corps	10	10	10	—	10	10	10	10	10	10	[4]—
Royal Army Dental Corps	40	50	40	30	30	40	20	50	40	40	[4]—
Intelligence Corps	150	170	140	150	110	110	70	100	120	140	[4]—
Army Physical Training Corps	20	30	20	20	20	20	20	30	20	40	[4]—
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	110	100	100	80	60	90	80	110	90	80	[4]—
Total intake[6]	14,470	17,050	16,200	15,230	14,380	14,560	14,600	15,070	14,190	[7]14,170	[7]15,320

[1] Figures show all outflow from the UK Regular Army including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment.

[2] UK Regular Army excludes full-time Reserve Service personnel, Ghurkhas, the Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

[3] 2006-07 Arm Service split contains 11 months data due to the implementation of the JPA system.

[4] Denotes unavailable.

[5] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

[6] The total outflow figures contain all Arm Services, which includes the Household Cavalry Regiment, Corps of Army Music, the Long Service List and personnel with no Arm Service recorded on their Record of Service. Due to the implementation of the JPA system the Arm Service split is not yet available for financial year 2007-08. Excludes transfers into and out of Arm Service.

[7] Denotes provisional.

Notes:

1. Due to the ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, Army statistics from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 'five' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* numbers in post and *(b)* establishment are of (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps, (iii) Royal Artillery, (iv) Royal Engineers, (v) Royal Signals, (vi) infantry, (vii) Army Air Corps, (viii) Royal Army Chaplains Department, (ix) Royal Logistics Corps, (x) Royal Army Medical Corps, (xi) Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, (xii) Adjutant General's Corps, (xiii) Royal Army Veterinary Corps, (xiv) Small Arms School Corps, (xv) Royal Army Dentistry Corps, (xvi) Intelligence Corps, (xvii) Army Physical Training Corps and (xviii) Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps personnel. [210653]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the strengths for the Territorial Army, and the Regular Army strengths broken down by arms and services as at 1 April 2008. There are no establishment numbers produced for the Territorial Army. The Regular Army Liability (RAL) 2007-08 is still in use as RAL 2008-09 has yet to be issued.

Territorial Army strengths as at 1 April 2008

	Number
Total Territorial Army	[1]35,630
Territorial Army (excluding Mobilised TA)	[1]34,170
Mobilised Territorial Army	[1]1,460

[1] Provisional

Notes:

1. Due to the ongoing validation of the Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
2. DASA figures prior to 1 April 2007 included TA personnel classed as 'awaiting acceptance'. There is no JPA equivalent for this category and therefore they are not included.
3. Data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Trained Regular Army officers and soldiers strengths by arms and services as at 1 April 2008

Arms and services	*Strengths (1 April 2008)*	*RAL 2007-08*
Royal Armoured Corps[1]	[2]5,520	5,758
Royal Regiment of Artillery	[2]7,020	7,540
Corps of Royal Engineers	[2]9,110	9,698
Royal Corps of Signals	[2]7,930	8,194
Infantry	[2]22,700	[3]—
Army Air Corps	[2]2,020	2,068
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	[2]130	147
The Royal Logistic Corps	[2]15,170	16,[illegible]78
Royal Army Medical Corps	[2]2,940	3,276
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	[2]9,460	9,903
Adjutant General's Corps[4]	[2]6,030	6,157
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	[2]260	214
Small Arms School Corps	[2]150	143
Royal Army Dentistry Corps	[2]380	500
Intelligence Corps	[2]1,480	1,500
Army Physical Training Corps	[2]460	434
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	[2]830	1,199

[1] The RAL 2007-08 and the 1 April 2008 strength for the Royal Armoured Corps both include the Household Cavalry.

[2] Provisional.

[3] 2007-08 revised soldier liability for the infantry is still awaited from DGS.

[4] The Adjutant General's Corps consists of the Provost Branch, Staff and Personnel Support Branch, Education and Training Services and the Army Legal Service.

Notes:

1. Due to the ongoing validation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
2. Above data are for trained regular personnel only and therefore excludes Ghurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service and Home Service Personnel of the Royal Irish Regiment.
3. Data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Army manning target is to be decreased under performance indicator 2.2 in his Department's plan for 2008 to 2012. [211971]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army's manpower targets as set out in the Defence Plan 2008 to 2012 reflect a small change in the Army's defined requirement. This is the product of a net reduction arising from a combination of enhancements measures to deliver new capabilities, efficiencies and savings measures, and the impact of change programmes such as the Head Office Streamlining and Defence Equipment and Support restructuring. As intimated at the time of publishing the Defence Plan, these figures were provisional. The subsequent outcome of our Planning Round 08, which introduced a number of enhancements, increased the Army's defined requirement better to meet the challenges it currently faces, as follows:

	Number
2008-09	101,790
2009-10	101,790
2010-11	102,090
2011-12	102,050

AWE Burghfield: Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of operation of AWE Burghfield was in the last year for which figures are available. [211556]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested. Contract payments for AWE are made against an agreed programme of work that covers all AWE sites; Aldermaston, Burghfield and Blacknest. These costs are not recorded according to site.

Total AWE expenditure for a number of years, including 2006-07, was reported at the end of last year and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Bomb Disposal

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions armed forces bomb disposal units have supported domestic counter-terrorism operations in each of the last five years. [211965]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence maintains a capability to dispose of conventional munitions and to defeat improvised explosive devices in the UK in response to requests for assistance from UK police forces. Police forces do not distinguish between counter-terrorism and non-counter-terrorism events when they ask for assistance.

The following table shows the number of occasions in each of the last five calendar years on which armed forces personnel have been called out to deal with explosive devices. Joint Services EOD Operations Centre record incidents according to type of device involved.

	Type of device	
	Conventional munitions	*Improvised explosive device*
2003	2,678	1,377
2004	2,355	1,160
2005	2,549	974
2006	2,725	741
2007	2,352	666

Caribbean: Drugs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people of each nationality have been detained by British forces operating in the Caribbean in each year since 2001. [210744]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: British forces operating in the Caribbean have not detained any people since 2001. Law Enforcement within the Overseas Territories' and Independent States is conducted by the host nation Law Enforcement Agencies.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210993]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. This information is available in JSP 530, The MOD chart of accounts manual for financial year 2008-09 incorporating MOD organisation and resource account code Hierarchies, copies of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Offices

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [211955]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 126W.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 567-8W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fairtrade products. [211570]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure for hospitality and entertainment is published in the MOD Annual Report and Accounts, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

The MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 are expected to be laid before the House in July.

Information on the use of Fairtrade products is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the *(a)* A400M and *(b)* Typhoon Trade 3 project; and how many orders for each (i) have been received and (ii) are expected. [211542]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The first A400M aircraft is due to roll out in an official ceremony scheduled for 26 June 2008 at the Final Assembly Line in Seville. The new engine for A400M is installed on a Flying Test Bed and has been successfully ground run with a first flight expected soon. The company is aiming for a first flight for the A400M prototype later this year. We expect the UK to receive its first A400M, of 25 ordered, in 2011. Total orders worldwide are for 192 A400M aircraft with nine air forces.

The UK has undertaken, through international MOU arrangements, to procure 232 Typhoon aircraft in three tranches. So far, the UK has contracted for the delivery of two tranches, comprising 144 aircraft. Negotiations, with Partner Nations and industry, are under way on Tranche 3 and are expected to continue throughout this year. It would be inappropriate at this stage to release information which might prejudice our negotiating position. Decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

Military Exercises

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of *(a)* land, *(b)* air and *(c)* sea exercises have been (i) cancelled and (ii) postponed as a result of increases in the cost of fuel in each of the last 12 months. [211854]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the last 12 months, no training exercises have been cancelled or postponed as a result of increases in the cost of fuel.

Modern Housing Solutions: Complaints

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received in each of the last 12 months. [204004]

Derek Twigg: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) are responsible for the maintenance and repair of some 45,000 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales.

The number of complaints received by MHS in each of the last 12 months is provided in the following table:

	Actual complaints received
May 2007	474
June 2007	425
July 2007	795
August 2007	541
September 2007	703
October 2007	828
November 2007	759
December 2007	519
January 2008	658
February 2008	612
March 2008	562
April 2008	731
May 2008	622

These figures correct those provided in my answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) for the period May to December 2007.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of the Royal Navy in operations to intercept illicit drug shipments. [211376]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While the Royal Navy is not the lead on counter narcotic operations, it makes a significant contribution towards HMG efforts to combat international drug smuggling. Within the UK, it acts in support of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Outside UK waters, it may be involved in efforts to reduce narcotics trafficking where other, higher priority tasks allow.

Navy: Seized Articles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total tonnage of illicit goods seized by the Royal Navy was in each year since 2005, broken down by region. [211396]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210546]

Derek Twigg: The demand for services to be provided in Welsh by the Department, its agencies and non-departmental bodies is minimal.

The Department provides a Welsh language service for those people who prefer to deal with the Department in Welsh. The Department's Welsh Language Scheme, approved by the Welsh Language Board, is available in both English and Welsh on the MOD's website:

www.mod.uk.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Social Enterprises

11. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what research he has commissioned on the role of social enterprises in the last three years. [211632]

Phil Hope: Within the last three years the Government have commissioned a range of research to strengthen the evidence base on social enterprise, including think pieces on social enterprise's future in ethical markets and in social innovation, and research on the strategic use of social enterprise by Government. The Government are investing £5 million in a Centre for Third Sector Research, which will launch later this year, covering the whole third sector.

Social Exclusion: Polyclinics

12. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if the social exclusion task force will undertake research on the likely effects of the establishment of polyclinics on social exclusion. [211633]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if the social exclusion task force will undertake research into the effect of the introduction of polyclinics on social exclusion. [2[illegible]627]

Edward Miliband: The Government are investing in 100 new traditional GP practices in under-doctored areas to counter social exclusion and 150 new GP-led health centres. Any decisions about polyclinics or other changes in health services are a matter for local PCTs and can only be made on the basis of compelling clinical evidence.

Social Exclusion

13. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if the social exclusion task force will undertake research on the effects of post office closures on social exclusion. [211634]

Edward Miliband: The Government recognise the social and economic role of post offices in local communities. Our subsidy to the post office of £1.7 billion between now and 2011 is helping to maintain a national network with national coverage ensuring that all areas, including rural and deprived urban areas, will continue to have reasonable access to Post Office Services.

Early Intervention Policies

14. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the creation of a national assessment centre for early intervention policies; and if he will make a statement. [211635]

Phil Hope: Early intervention is a key principle highlighted in the Social Exclusion Action Plan and we continue to work with the Department of Children, Schools and Families, as well as all our other partners across Government, in identifying and testing innovative approaches to preventing social exclusion.

Community Assets Programme

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the performance of the community assets programme. [211628]

Edward Miliband: The community assets programme received a large number of excellent bids in areas from the arts to social enterprise to youth services. The programme itself and the difference it is making will be fully evaluated in 2010.

Civil Servants: Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his policy is on linking Civil Service pay to productivity. [211623]

Mr. Watson: Civil service pay awards reflect an individual's outputs, results and performance against pre-agreed objectives. Under the delegated arrangements for staff below the senior civil service, Departments and agencies are required to have reward systems that include a close and effective link between pay and performance. For the senior civil service, for which pay is managed centrally by the Cabinet Office, non-consolidated payments (which have to be earned each year) are used to incentivise staff to deliver business objectives successfully.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the unfunded liability in present value terms of each public sector pension scheme for which his Department is responsible; and on what assumptions for *(a)* discount and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based. [200746]

Mr. Watson: Since the introduction of resource accounting in 1999-2000 annual estimates of the unfunded liability for the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are published each year in the resource accounts of Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

The most recent set of resource accounts are for 2006-07 and these contain the discount rate assumption. The scheme actuary used the same longevity assumptions as applied at the full scheme valuation as at 31 March 2003. A copy of this report, "Review of the Accruing Superannuation Liability Charges (ALSCs) as at 31 March 2003" is available on the civil service pensions website at:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/facts_and_figures.aspx.

Before the introduction of resource accounting in 1999-2000 the accounting arrangements in place did not include estimates of pension liabilities. However, for the estimated liability in 1997-98, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in the other place by the noble Lord McIntosh of Haringey to the noble Lord Blackwell on 4 July 2000, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA129.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timescale is for the Government's research on possible relationships between the pricing and availability of alcohol and harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption; what issues will be considered in that research; who will be consulted as part of the research; and whether the research will address the below-cost selling of alcohol by supermarkets. [207963]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's Policy Research Programme has commissioned a single team comprising different disciplines and expertise from Sheffield University, School of Health and Related Research to carry out an independent review of the evidence on how and in what circumstances price and promotion drive consumption of alcohol and harms from alcohol.

This includes looking at how advertising, price and promotion of alcohol affect consumption and the potential implications of changes in the price and promotion on health, crime, the alcohol industry and consumers.

The review has two phases:

- Phase 1 is a systematic review of the evidence from published and grey literature on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion, consumption and harm; and
- Phase 2 is a modelling exercise to explore the impact of potential policy changes in this area.

The Review is an independent review of evidence. Any Government proposals for legislation or other action arising from the review would be the subject of formal consultation. The review team began work in the first week of January 2008 and are expected to report by summer 2008. Some of the issues considered under Phase 1 include discounting, price-based promotions below-cost selling and advertising.

Continuing Care

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people receive NHS continuing care services in each primary care trust; and how many people per 50,000 of each trust area's population this represents. [211086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 13 June 2008]*: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of people receiving continuing National Health Service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS health care*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS health care per 50,000 population*
	England	38,168	38
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust	415	60
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	155	47
5A9	Barnet PCT	315	47
5JE	Barnsley PCT	60	13
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	23	11
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	421	115
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	162	20
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	379	50
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	246	27
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	135	32
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	183	23
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	46	15
5HP	Blackpool PCT	72	26
5HQ	Bolton PCT	169	32
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	283	45
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	261	26
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	567	101
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	731	142
5QJ	Bristol PCT	217	26
5A7	Bromley PCT	167	28
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	373	38
5JX	Bury PCT	37	10
5J6	Calderdale PCT	156	39
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	245	22
5K7	Camden PCT	115	25
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	221	25
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	243	28
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	215	48
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	660	63
5ND	County Durham PCT	529	52
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	441	68
5K9	Croydon PCT	987	149
5NE	Cumbria PCT	115	11
5J9	Darlington PCT	99	51
5N7	Derby City PCT	222	41
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	789	57
5QQ	Devon PCT	833	50
5N5	Doncaster PCT	360	62
5QM	Dorset PCT	819	108
5PE	Dudley PCT	286	40
5HX	Ealing PCT	80	13
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	207	19
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	129	17
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	46	8
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	181	28
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	329	23
5C1	Enfield PCT	208	38
5KF	Gateshead PCT	162	42
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	101	9
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	79	18
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	303	66
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	201	33
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	75	22
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,740	71
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	210	44

Number of people receiving continuing National Health Service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS health care*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS health care per 50,000 population*
5K6	Harrow PCT	277	70
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	133	73
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	155	45
5A4	Havering PCT	301	64
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	267	47
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	149	41
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	105	26
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	394	82
5HY	Hounslow PCT	295	67
5NX	Hull PCT	187	34
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	192	70
5K8	Islington PCT	135	36
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	203	54
5A5	Kingston PCT	74	22
5N2	Kirklees PCT	246	32
5J4	Knowsley PCT	118	39
5LD	Lambeth PCT	249	43
5N1	Leeds PCT	677	45
5PC	Leicester City PCT	163	27
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	352	28
5LF	Lewisham PCT	249	49
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	77	6
5NL	Liverpool PCT	285	32
5GC	Luton PCT	245	67
5NT	Manchester PCT	543	57
5L3	Medway PCT	177	33
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	98	14
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	159	53
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	61	13
5D7	Newcastle PCT	125	34
5C5	Newham PCT	215	42
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	301	21
5PW	North East Essex PCT	83	13
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust	123	37
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	200	31
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	103	33
5M8	North Somerset PCT	70	18
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	133	33
5E1	North Tees PCT	167	45
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	160	39
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	232	15
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	391	30
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	216	35
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	144	24
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	353	28
5J5	Oldham PCT	219	49
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	364	30
5PN	Peterborough PCT	71	24
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	434	88
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	209	53
5NA	Redbridge PCT	181	38
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	65	24
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	104	30
5H8	Rotherham PCT	122	25
5F5	Salford PCT	250	56
5PF	Sandwell PCT	80	13
5NJ	Sefton PCT	161	30
5N4	Sheffield PCT	299	28
5M2	Shropshire County P[illegible]	280	49
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	136	33
5QL	Somerset PCT	214	21
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	104	13
5P1	South East Essex PCT	65	10
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	32	7
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	310	27
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	117	39
5PY	South West Essex PCT	62	8
5L1	Southampton City PCT	238	40
5LE	Southwark PCT	161	32
5F7	Stockport PCT	101	29
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	148	29
5PT	Suffolk PCT	192	13
[illegible]KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	306	55
[illegible]5	Surrey PCT	543	26
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	194	26
5K3	Swindon PCT	79	31
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	191	42
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	214	66
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	682	247
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	195	46
5NR	Trafford PCT	60	14
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	173	20
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	534	107
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	124	27
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	60	11
5J2	Warrington PCT	108	28
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	497	49
5PV	West Essex PCT	75	14
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	307	29
5P9	West Kent PCT	300	23
5P6	West Sussex PCT	1,151	75
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	131	37
5LC	Westminster PCT	106	40
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	325	38
5NK	Wirral PCT	112	18
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	227	48
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	235	22

Source:

Department of Health form: Local delivery plan return Commissioner; general practitioner membership populations—attribution data set 2007 reconciled to Office for National Statistics mid 2006 estimates for local authorities (minus special populations), and the Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Dental Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dentists were listed on the primary care NHS list for *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available; [210525]

(2) how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend-on-Sea in each year since 1997; what steps he (i) has taken and (ii) plans to take to increase the number of NHS dentists in each area; what recent representations he has received about the provision of NHS dentists in each area; what recent discussions he has had on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [210691]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists on primary care trust (PCT) lists in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by PCT. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

The number of dentists on open NHS contracts in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table El of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006/07 report". This information is based on the new contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part- time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in "The Operating Framework. For The NHS in England 2008-09" and we have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

The Department does not have any record of any recent representations made to the Secretary of State for Health on the provision of dental services in Southend-on-sea or in Essex SHA, nor any record of recent discussions on this issue.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on a waiting list for an NHS dentist in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [210514]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine how best to manage patients seeking NHS dental services.

However, increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in "The Operating Framework. For the NHS in England 2008-09". We have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of the Operating Framework are available in the Library.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210991]

Mr. Bradshaw: The chart of accounts for 31 May 2008 has been placed in the Library and reflects the Department's structure at that date and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future periods. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208393]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest available data on the gender of civil servants are as at 31 December 2007 and are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), as part of their wider Quarterly Public Sector Employment Statistics. Information can be accessed via the following website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

The latest available data on the ethnic background and the disability status of civil servants in Departments and agencies are as at 30 September 2006 and are also published by ONS as Civil Service Statistics 2006. Information can be accessed from the following websites:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary.

Information on civil servants' sexual orientation is not currently collected or published.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208516]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows a breakdown of the amount spent on overseas mail in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company:

£

	Royal Mail	Point to Point
2008	n/a	[1]—
2007	3,486.21	[1]—
2006	6,931.16	[1]—
2005	6,310.53	3,314.47
2004	5,117.47	5,134.80
2003	5,414.84	n/a
2002	7,109.41	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] May 2006 to May 2008 total is £8,683.15.

Dietary Supplements

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received on the continued availability of higher potency vitamin and mineral supplements under the provisions of the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement; [210217]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the results of the Food Standard Agency's customer survey into consumption patterns of folic acid products and *(b)* the implications of the survey results for the Agency's modelling of folic acid intake from food supplements and fortified foods; [210218]

(3) on what date the Food Standards Agency wrote to the European Commission to seek clarification of the legal implications of the decisions of the European Food Safety Authority that there was insufficient evidence upon which to assess the status of vanadium; and what response the Agency has received; [210219]

(4) when he expects the relevant Council of Ministers Working Group next to be convened further to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels of food supplements. [210222]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has received representations recently from some sectors of the food industry and Consumers for Health Choice in support of the continued availability of higher potency vitamin and mineral supplements.

The aim of the FSA's consumer research on food supplements was to gain a better understanding of United Kingdom consumers' consumption of vitamin and mineral food supplements and an insight into what motivates consumers to take these supplements. This research was not commissioned, or designed, to obtain data on consumption patterns to support the FSA's work on folic acid fortification. The results of the research will not be used in the modelling of folic acid intake.

Following the European Food Safety Authority's inconclusive opinion on the safety of six vanadium substances due to the lack of available data, the FSA wrote to the European Commission on 7 March 2008 requesting its views on the status of these substances as regards their use in food supplements. To date the FSA has not received a reply from the European Commission.

The date of the next European Commission-led working group meeting with member states in connection with setting levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements has not yet been notified.

Dispensing Practices

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of changes in the number of jobs in the dispensary and ancillary service areas of dispensing practices as a result of the proposed changes outlined in the Pharmacy White Paper; [211116]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on rural GP practices of the proposed changes to dispensing powers outlined in the Pharmacy White Paper. [211117]

Dawn Primarolo: The White Paper "Pharmacy in England; Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future" looks at aligning the future provision of pharmaceutical services and sets out proposals to look at the market entry criteria for doctors and pharmacists—but no decision has yet been taken on the criteria to be used in future for patients to receive pharmaceutical services from their general practitioner. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

A consultation paper will be launched in late summer after the publication of the primary and community care strategy. We will consider fully the impact of any proposals on patients, the national health service and contractors.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by the Department and *(b)* within the sector for which he has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [210464]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ending unfair age discrimination is one of the many priorities for the Department. Therefore, action to address age discrimination in health and social care services is not new and was central to the "National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People", published in 2001. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. The NSF set out to develop actions to address age discrimination in the first of the eight standards it set. Notable progress includes an increase in the proportion of older people receiving intensive help to maintain high quality, independent lives at home and a continuing improvement in specialist services for age-related needs such as stroke and falls.

More broadly, the Government will shortly be publishing their response to the consultation paper on proposals for the Equality Bill which signalled that it is considering the case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services and for a single public sector duty extended to cover age.

Food Standards Agency: Belgium

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the Chief Executive or other senior officials at the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have travelled to Brussels to hold events which have in part aimed to outline and promote the FSA's Multiple Traffic Light labelling scheme in the last two years. [211128]

Dawn Primarolo: During the last two years, the chair of the Food Standards Agency has attended one event in Brussels to outline and promote multiple traffic light labelling. This was also attended by senior officials.

In addition to this, the chief executive and other senior officials attended a further meeting in Brussels which briefly discussed signpost labelling.

General Practitioners: Fees and Charges

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines cover *(a)* the charging for letters sent by GPs to patients and *(b)* the use of revenue accruing from such charges. [210897]

Mr. Bradshaw: General practitioners (GPs) may provide a variety of services that are private matters between the patient and the doctor providing the service. It is for the doctor to decide which private services he wishes to provide and the level of fee. The use of revenue accruing from such charges would be a matter for the GP practice to decide. General Medical Council guidance "Good Medical Practice" advises GPs on financial and commercial dealings with patients.

Health Professions: Vetting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether people employed in the private health sector are required to have Criminal Records Bureau checks carried out on them; and if he will make a statement. [211235]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Private health providers are already under an obligation to carry out Criminal Records Bureau checks. Contractors working in a national health service trust should be checked to the same level and standards as staff directly employed by the trust.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 200W, on hospital beds, (1) how many hospital beds are in single rooms in each NHS trust; and what proportion of all beds this represents in each trust; [209145]

(2) what percentage of beds were in single rooms in *(a)* acute, *(b)* geriatric, *(c)* mental illness, *(d)* learning disability and *(e)* maternity wards; [209146]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of additional single rooms that will be provided on the basis of current projections for hospital building and refurbishment projects already underway; [209147]

(4) what percentage of beds were in single rooms, excluding intensive care and children's beds. [209148]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service trusts make an informed choice regarding the appropriate percentage of single room provision in new or refurbished developments, based on clinical and operational considerations such as site restrictions and affordability.

Data is held centrally on 33 private finance initiative and public capital funded new hospital schemes currently under construction or in procurement (capital value over £25 million and approved by the Department). Details of these schemes which have a total value of some £6.5 billion, have been placed in the Library and show the percentage of single rooms being provided in the construction or proposed.

The Department's guidance for new hospital developments is that the proportion of single rooms should aim to be 50 per cent., but should not fall below 20 per cent., and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing. The policy and design guidance for the provision of single rooms in mental health accommodation is 100 per cent.

For the existing health estate, the Department makes a retrospective collection of information about the number of available beds at each NHS trust site and the proportion of those beds that are in single rooms. This information has also been placed in the Library. As the data is collected on a site rather than a ward basis, it is not possible separately to identify the number of single rooms each trust may use specifically to deliver geriatric care, children's services, intensive care or maternity services. Information about single room provision in the specific trust types requested (acute, mental health and learning disability) has also been placed in the Library.

All the information given relates to the NHS in England. Information provided in my previous answer to the hon. Member on 20 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 200W, stated that the proportion of available beds in England that are in single rooms had risen from 22.6 per cent. in 2002-2003 to 27.9 per cent. in 2006-07. Due to an error, the figure given for 2006-07 related to the position for England and Wales when it should have reflected the position in England for which the correct figure in 2006-07 is 28.3 per cent.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost of administering an admission to hospital in each of the last five years. [211372]

Mr. Bradshaw: The specific information requested cannot be provided, as it is not collected centrally.

Information is available on the average cost of a wide range of services provided in hospitals. These average cost figures include all of the cost elements associated with a patient's care, such as administering an admission, but these are not separately identified.

Average cost data is collected each year through the "NHS Reference Cost 2006-07" collection exercise. A copy of the national schedule of reference costs for 2006-07 is available in the Library, and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082571

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on *(a)* the Adoption (Amendment) Bill of Session 1989-90, *(b)* the Human Fertilisation (Choice) Bill of Session 1992-93 and *(c)* the Freezing of Human Embryos Bill of Session 1995-96; and if he will make a statement. [210689]

Dawn Primarolo: Adoption policy is now dealt with by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. That Department can find no specific files with the title 'The Adoption (Amendment) Bill of session 1989-90'.

No files are held with this specific title 'The Human Fertilisation (Choice) Bill of Session 1992-93'.

The Department holds two files on the storage of sperm and embryos and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's Code of Practice on storage of sperm and embryos, relating to the period mentioned.

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received by the Healthcare Commission about non-surgical laser and intense pulsed light treatments in the last five years. [210101]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prior to November 2007, the Healthcare Commission did not collate this information centrally. Since November 2007, 51 complaints have been received by the Healthcare Commission about non-surgical laser and intense pulsed light treatment.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse incidents have been reported to the Healthcare Commission from the use of laser and intense pulsed light devices in non-surgical treatments in the last five years. [210119]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prior to May 2007, the Healthcare Commission did not collate this information centrally. Since May 2007, the Healthcare Commission has received eight notifications for adverse incidents in establishments registered to provide laser and light services.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* the basis and *(b)* method was used for calculating the figure of 400 treatments by laser and intense pulsed light establishments per annum referred to in his Department's Private and Voluntary Healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000—regulations and national minimum standards consultation document. [210120]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following professional judgment after consideration of all the available evidence, a working assumption of 400 treatments per annum was drawn up for the Partial Impact Assessment. We expect that the consultation exercise, which closed on 10 June 2008, will provide information to enable the Department to refine this figure.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated by the NHS for laser or intense pulsed light injuries to the skin in the last five years; and how many of these were known to be caused by private non-surgical treatment providers. [210121]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data regarding this type of injury; neither does it collect information from private non-surgical treatment providers.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of non-surgical treatment providers using laser or intense pulsed light devices in England; and how many such establishments are registered with the Healthcare Commission. [210122]

Mr. Bradshaw: Private or voluntary organisations providing healthcare services as defined in the Care Standards Act 2000 are required to register with the Healthcare Commission, and to meet the requirements of legislation before they can provide services. There are 941 establishments registered with the Healthcare Commission to provide non-surgical treatment using Class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed lights.

NHS: Public Participation

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ring-fence funding for annual health checks for those with learning disabilities; [210604]

(2) which organisations are to be consulted on his Department's proposals on investment and clinical services announced on 4 May 2008; [210636]

(3) what the terms of reference are for the consultation on his Department's proposals on investment in access and clinical services announced on 4 May 2008; [210637]

(4) what discussions his Department has had with the British Medical Association in the last two months on his Department's proposals on investment in access and clinical services announced on 4 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [210638]

Mr. Bradshaw: Through NHS Employers, we have been consulting the British Medical Association (BMA) on a package of investment of up to £100 million through existing general practitioner (GP) practices to further improve care and services for patients, this will included targeted improvements especially for vulnerable patients such as those with severe learning difficulties. These arrangements are linked to the agreement reached with the BMA on investing 1.5 per cent. increase in resources for the provision of primary medical care services, including the cost of funding the independent review bodies pay recommendation for GPs for 2007-08.

A detailed written proposal to implement the Doctors' and Dentists Pay Review Body recommendations for GPs has been sent to the BMA's General Practitioners Committee. This will also provide changes that need to be made to the Statement of Financial Entitlements to introduce the new enhanced patient services set out in the press release of 4 May 2008.

SARS

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking *(a)* with EU partners and *(b)* through the World Health Organisation to tackle severe acute respiratory syndrome; [209296]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likelihood of a global pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome; and if he will make a statement; [209297]

(3) what contingency arrangements his Department has in place to deal with a global pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome. [209298]

Dawn Primarolo: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has not been detected anywhere in the world since the last case in 2004. The Department works with its EU partners through the Health Security Committee, the European Commission's Early Warning and Response System and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to monitor emerging health threats and ensure rapid notification of any cases. The measures put in place during the previous global outbreak demonstrated that outbreaks of SARS can be contained and a global pandemic prevented.

The Department also works in close collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) which maintains vigilance to the possibility of re-emergence of SARS, and would co-ordinate the international response to an outbreak. Case definitions for SARS cases have been internationally agreed and through the Global Alert and Response Network the UK will be rapidly notified of cases of SARS occurring anywhere in the world.

The Department has developed a contingency plan in case this disease re-emerges, and has agreed the appropriate public health response for SARS. This plan is based upon our response to that outbreak and our generic preparedness for dealing with any infectious disease outbreak or newly emerging threat, and takes account of WHO guidance.

The integrated public health and health service response to any SARS cases occurring in the UK would focus upon rapid detection of disease, preventing person to person transmission, containing the outbreak and provision of appropriate patient care. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) also developed detailed advice for clinicians on the rapid detection and diagnosis of infection and treatment of patients. The plan and guidance documents are not currently displayed on the Department's or the HPA's website as the disease has not been present globally since 2004, but would be activated upon notification of a new SARS case anywhere in the world.

Vioxx

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to compensate individuals who had adverse health outcomes from their prescribed use of the drug Vioxx; and if he will make a statement. [211279]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The Department has not paid compensation to individuals who suffered adverse health outcomes from their prescribed use of the drug Vioxx. The correct means of seeking such compensation would be through the courts.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has contributed to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund since 2001. [211636]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed a total of £240 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) since 2002, including £55 million in 2007-08.

Afghanistan: Schools

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of efforts to establish a stable schooling structure in the Helmand region of Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [211172]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to the Department of Education (DoE) in Helmand, at the beginning of 2008 there were 224 registered schools, yet only around 50 schools were open and active and only three of these were high schools. In response, the Afghanistan Ministry of Education (MoE), the DoE and the Governor of Helmand agreed a joint education plan, which is now under implementation. The plan is financed by the Danish Government through the UK-led provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Helmand, with a budget of $6 million for 2008. As well as the construction of schools and dormitories and refurbishment of the DoE, the programme will provide teacher training and support to high school students from districts across Helmand.

Since commencement of this new programme in January 2008, 10 schools have re-opened in the district of Nad Ali, giving an estimated 10 per cent. increase in the number of students in the district. In Musa Qala one school has been opened with fifty teachers registered. The building of three more schools in Musa Qala has been contracted, and one is already under construction. There has also been an increased number of requests for the construction of schools in Lashkar Gah, Nahr-e Saraj (Gereshk), Nawa, Nad Ali and Garmsir.

Africa: HIV Infection

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of funding under the updated AIDS strategy Achieving Universal Access Financial Aid will be received by *(a)* Botswana, *(b)* Namibia, *(c)* South Africa, *(d)* Mozambique and *(e)* Zimbabwe. [211190]

Gillian Merron: It is not yet possible to say what percentages of the £6 billion commitment announced in the Government's updated strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world "Achieving Universal Access" will be received by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Africa: Malaria

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department is making to tackling malaria in *(a)*

Senegal, *(b)* Mali, *(c)* Malawi and *(d)* Tanzania; and if he will make a statement. [211191]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development is helping to combat malaria through our country programmes and through our support of international organisations and research.

In Malawi, DFID is providing £100 million to support the health sector programme in over six years. This includes support to Malawi's National Malaria Strategy, which prioritises malaria prevention, case management, treatment and education. To date, over 2.5 million insecticide-treated nets have been distributed. Over one-third of pregnant women and under-fives now sleep under bed nets, and the reported number of clinical episodes of malaria has declined by one-third.

In Tanzania, we provide general budget support to Government. This amounted to £105 million in 2007-08. Approximately 17 per cent. of the national budget was provided to the Ministry of Health which has a programme of action to tackle malaria. In addition, DFID has provided £14 million over a period of nine years from 1998 to 2007 to the Smartnet programme, an initiative to increase the use and treatment of bed nets to protect people, particularly in rural areas from infection. A nationwide survey conducted in April 2007 showed that 63 per cent. of pregnant women and 69 per cent. of under-fives slept under a net the previous night.

DFID does not have bilateral programmes in Senegal and Mali. However, some of the international organisations we support like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria work in these countries.

DFID is one of the biggest contributors to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, which accounts for nearly 64 per cent. of all international financing for malaria. To date, the fund has approved a total of US $10.8 billion to more than 550 grants in 136 countries; it has disbursed US $5.5 billion. 25 per cent. of approved funding is for malaria programmes.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which African states receive poverty reduction budget support from the UK; and how much each was allocated in 2007-08. [211700]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) Poverty Reduction Budget Support given to African countries in 2007-08 are available in table 5.3, page 93, of the 2008 annual report; "Development: Making it Happen". This publication is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage change in levels of bilateral aid to Africa there was between 2004-05 and 2007-08; and how this change compared to commitments made at the G8 and EU summits in 2005. [211817]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID bilateral expenditure in sub-Saharan Africa in 2006-07 was £1,107 million, an increase of 34 per cent. over the 2004-05 total of £825 million. DFID bilateral expenditure data for 2007-08 will be available in July 2008.

At the 2005 G8 summit the UK committed to double its bilateral aid to Africa between 2003-04 and 2007-08. DFID bilateral expenditure in sub-Saharan Africa in 2006-07 was 65 per cent. higher than the 2003-04 baseline of £672 million.

Childbirth

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards establishing a global register of all births, deaths and the causes of death; and if he will make a statement. [211173]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN Statistical division compiles birth and death information and the World Health Organisation (WHO) cause of death information from all countries on an annual basis. However, there is no single global register of all births, deaths and causes of death and no UN agency currently has responsibility for registering births and deaths.

Cocoa

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of independent certification of cocoa industry supply chains; and if he will make a statement. [210834]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no plans to undertake an assessment of the certification of cocoa industry supply chains. We are aware that the industry, in collaboration with the Governments of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, is developing a certification process. We understand that both countries are currently on track to complete the survey of at least 50 per cent. of the cocoa producing areas by July 2008 which is the next target in the development of the certification process.

Cocoa: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to raise consumer awareness of the conditions in which children are working in the cocoa industry. [210432]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is working to raise awareness of the power that consumers can wield through their shopping choices, for example, in our work with national and regional media, in publications such as "The Rough Guide to a Better World", and by supporting development awareness programmes. We will continue to develop further communications activities which serve to highlight the benefits of buying products that are fairly, ethically and sustainably sourced.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to tackle child *(a)* trafficking and *(b)* labour standards in the cocoa industry in West Africa. [210433]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not support projects which specifically target trafficking or child labour in the cocoa industry in West Africa. DFID supports a wide range of activities that tackle the underlying poverty which makes children vulnerable to trafficking and exploitative labour in cocoa production and other industries. In Ghana, one of the largest cocoa producing countries in the region, this includes support to ensure all children are able to go to school, helping the mainstreaming of children's concerns in key Government programmes and policies, and supporting the development of the national social protection strategy.

We support the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) whose technical assistance programmes help governments to tackle trafficking and implement labour standards. In addition we work with civil society and business organisations to promote fair, ethical and sustainable trade.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential of the Harkin-Engel Protocol to contribute to tackling child trafficking in the cocoa industry; and if he will make a statement. [210434]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government have not undertaken any specific assessment of the potential of the Harkin-Engel Protocol.

It is an agreement between the industry, civil society and the Governments of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly endorses the objective of the Protocol—to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in cocoa production. We welcome the voluntary engagement of all the stakeholders, an essential part of any long-term, sustainable approach to tackle trafficking and child labour.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means he ensures that his Department's funding to the cocoa industry in developing countries does not go to companies who use trafficked children in their supply chain. [210720]

Mr. Thomas: Although communities in cocoa growing areas may benefit from UK development assistance, the Department for International Development (DFID) is not providing funding to the cocoa industry. In the past DFID Ghana has provided support to cocoa farmers' associations to develop fairtrade chocolate under the 'Divine' brand. The conditions of fairtrade certification require good working conditions in the farming communities which would include the elimination of trafficked or harmful child labour.

Individual companies in the cocoa industry can apply for funding under schemes such as the new Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund. But successful applicants have to demonstrate that the project offers new and innovative ideas which will benefit poor rural communities. The social and economic impacts of projects will be monitored and assessed.

Congo: World Food Programme

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's contribution to the World Food Programme for programmes in *(a)* the Congo and *(b)* Mozambique is for 2008-09. [211182]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

In the DRC, the Department for International Development (DFID) makes the bulk of its humanitarian contributions through the UN's global Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and through a national pooled fund. In 2008-09, DFID is the largest contributor to CERF, contributing £40 million (20 per cent. of the total), and expects to contribute £30 million to the pooled fund. For both funds, the decision as to how the money is spent is at the discretion of the UN. At this early stage in the year, it is therefore difficult to predict how much the World Food Programme (WFP) is likely to receive from these two sources. In 2007, the WFP received £7.25 million total from CERF and the pooled fund.

Mozambique

During 2008-09, the WFP is likely to benefit from allocations from the UN's global CERF, to which DFID is the largest contributor. At this early stage in the year, it is difficult to predict how much WFP is likely to receive from this source. DFID currently does not have plans to contribute directly to the World Food Programme in Mozambique in 2008-09.

In 2007-08, DFID's contribution to the WFP was £250,000. Through CERF, the WFP received £2 million.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210989]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I will place a copy of my Department's 2008-09 chart of accounts and resource accounts and usage descriptions in the Library.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The codes used in the chart are also used for preparing resource accounts. Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Developing Countries

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of performance against public service agreements for 2005 to 2008 in the 16 monitored countries. [211800]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) assessment of its performance against the Public Service Agreement for 2005 to 2008 in the 16 key African countries are available in Annex 4, page 261, of the 2008 DFID Annual Report 'Development: Making it Happen'. This publication is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources he has allocated to monitoring performance against the public service agreements for 2005 to 2008. [211801]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) public service agreement (PSA) for 2005-08 was at the core of the Department's corporate performance framework. The 2005-08 PSA was monitored by a central team of professional statistical advisers in the finance and corporate performance division who compiled data on a quarterly basis from country offices and divisions. This was then provided to the management board in the quarterly management report, autumn performance report and annual report, all of which are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Children

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on child protection systems in developing countries in each of the last five years. [211884]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development supports child protection systems in developing countries through UNICEF, OCHA and Save the Children.

Between 2004-05 and 2006-07, DFID provided £19 million in unearmarked core funding each year to UNICEF. In 2007-08 DFID provided £21 million in unearmarked core funding. This is used by UNICEF according to the priorities in their medium term strategic plan which includes the key area of child protection. UNICEF spend 10.5 per cent. of overall funding per year on child protection.

In addition to this DFID a major donor to the Protection Capacity programme (PROCAP), a UN project that aims to create a pool of highly qualified child protection officers, including to lead and coordinate humanitarian protection work in emergencies, including child protection activities. We have spent £1 million on this project since 2005, through the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

DFID also agreed in 2006 to provide £1.3 million over five years to Save the Children UK to recruit and train 47 child protection specialists able to deploy to various emergencies. As a result of this project, over 360,000 vulnerable children will benefit, in addition to further multiplier effects as their experience impacts in the wider humanitarian system.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates the cross-Whitehall working group on tackling AIDS in the developing world has met since 2005; what future meetings are planned; and what work the group is undertaking on the implementation of *(a)* the new AIDS Strategy and *(b)* the promise of Universal Access to health care; and if he will make a statement. [211072]

Gillian Merron: Since 2005, the cross-Whitehall Coherence Group on Tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world has met three times; in February and September 2006 and in February 2007. Since then several separate meetings, involving Department for International Development (DFID) officials and officials from individual Departments have been held. It is anticipated that the group will meet again before the summer recess to discuss plans for implementation and monitoring of "Achieving Universal Access", the Government's updated strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world, published in June 2008. A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which 10 developing countries receive the most official development aid from international donors; and how much each country received from the UK in each of the last three years. [211710]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the level of total net bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) over the last three years for which data is available to the top 10 recipients of ODA in 2006 are shown in the following table:

Table 1: Total bilateral and UK bilateral ODA to the top 10 recipients of official development assistance in 2006, 2004-06

£ million

	2004		2005		2006	
	Total net bilateral ODA	of which: UK	Total net bilateral ODA	of which: UK	Total net bilateral ODA	of which: UK
Nigeria	171.4	68.8	3,270.1	1,210.7	5,880.3	1,731.1
Iraq	2,460.0	150.1	12,101.3	724.8	4,696.8	110.3
Afghanistan	956.5	122.2	1218.9	121.0	1,365.3	133.9
Sudan	476.4	63.6	830.3	108.1	872.1	117.1
Cameroon	312.7	16.4	186.0	2.5	821.0	92.2
DR Congo	635.8	164.2	569.0	42.7	815.0	76.0
Vietnam	664.3	36.9	700.2	53.2	716.9	44.6
China	885.2	39.4	969.7	30.5	670.3	28.4
Pakistan	216.1	49.6	510.3	34.7	659.4	110.4
Serbia (incl Kosovo)	330.3	5.3	470.3	51.2	639.5	98.1

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid allocations he has made for 2008-09 according to the reporting conventions established by the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006. [211711]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid allocations for 2008-09 are available in Annex 2, Table 4, page 245 of the 2008 annual report; "Development: Making it Happen". This publication is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Human Trafficking: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department to giving to UNICEF to tackle child trafficking in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [211188]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £21 million in unearmarked core funding to UNICEF. This is used by UNICEF according to the priorities in their medium term strategic plan which includes child protection and specific support to tackle child trafficking.

In addition, from 2006-09, DFID provided £3 million to the International Labour Organisation for programmes that seek to reduce forced labour, including child trafficking.

India: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what type of support his Department is providing to rural livelihood programmes in India; and how much was allocated to support these programmes in 2007-08. [211735]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports rural livelihoods programmes in partnership with the State Governments of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. We completed our programme with the Andhra Pradesh Government in December 2007. Our support includes both financial aid, disbursed through the state governments, and technical assistance.

The financial spend on rural livelihoods programmes during 2007-08 was:

	£ million
Andhra Pradesh	6.1
Orissa	6.8
Madhya Pradesh	8.0
West Bengal	4.6
Total	25.5

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on aid for India's universal elementary programme since 2006. [211741]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID India has spent £103.6 million since 2006 in support of the Indian Government's flagship "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (SSA) universal elementary education programme: £50 million in 2006-07; and £53.6 million in 2007-08.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been contributed by his Department to complete infrastructure projects that supply water and power to people in Southern Iraq. [211720]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since March 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £90 million on infrastructure regeneration projects in southern Iraq. By the end of this year, these projects will have improved power and water supplies to over one million people in Basra.

Through the UK-led provincial reconstruction team (PRT) in Basra DFID's technical assistance has helped the Basra Provincial Council to access $350 million of central Government funding in 2008 (after receiving none in 2005), which it is using to take forward more than 300 local reconstruction projects to rebuild infrastructure and provide essential services—including the supply of water and power—to the people of Southern Iraq.

Moldova: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what organisations were involved in the preparation of the sector-wide approach to aid for the social assistance sector in Moldova. [211714]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A sector-wide approach (SWAp) to aid in the social assistance sector in Moldova is under preparation, led by the Social Protection Co-ordination Group chaired by the Government of Moldova. This group includes donors such as the Department for International Development (DFID), the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), the EC, UNICEF and the World Bank. We expect NGOs and local government organisations to be involved in discussions in due course. DFID is supporting the development of this SWAp through a £3.3 million project on social assistance which we fund jointly with SIDA.

Nepal: Roads

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated to support the building of rural roads fit for a post-conflict environment in Nepal. [211734]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported the roads sector in Nepal throughout the conflict period. Since 2000 DFID has spent £42 million through our Rural Access programme and Rural and Rural Community Infrastructure Works programmes. The underlying rationale for this support is that roads provide people with the means to connect to markets, improve their incomes and escape poverty sustainably. According to the World Bank, the increased connectivity provided through this support has been a major factor in reducing poverty in Nepal from 43 per cent. to 31 per cent. in the past ten years. The economic rate of return for these investments is estimated at between 21 per cent. and 38 per cent.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's programme to increase micro-financing in Pakistan will be called; and how much has been allocated to implement the programme. [211739]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) will provide financial support of up to £50 million over five years to Pakistan's Financial Inclusion Programme which will be implemented by the State Bank.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided for Pakistan in 2007, broken down by programme. [211740]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department spent a total of almost £99 million on programmes in Pakistan in 2007. The ten largest programmes in 2007 are listed in the following table.

Project	£
Poverty reduction budget support	30,000,000
Earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation programme	17,500,000
National health facility—Budget support	7,500,000
Earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation programme	5,491,766
Improve citizen engagement through devolution	5,000,000
Devolved social services programme	4,916,421
Polio eradication initiative 2007	3,500,000
Contraceptive social marketing	2,933,285
Rural support programme network-phase 2	4,432,665
Faisalabad devolution project	2,097,634

Palestinian Authority

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who has contributed funds to the Palestinian Authority Office of the President to support its capacity and institution building plan; and how much the UK has contributed. [211715]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Italy and the United Kingdom jointly fund a £2.7 million capacity building and institutional development programme for the Office of the President. This supports the President to deliver reforms. The UK is contributing £750,000 over a period of two years and has so far disbursed £187,500.

South Asia: Childbirth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what records he holds on the changes in percentage of skilled birth attendants assisting in births since 2000 in the South Asia region. [211728]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The increase in the proportion of births attended by skilled attendants in South Asian countries is as follows:

Skilled birth attendant rates

	Percentage
India	
1998-99	43
2005-06	47
Bangladesh	
1999-2000	12
2006	20
Pakistan	
1990-91	19
2005-06	54
Nepal	
2001	11
2006	19

Source:
Demographic Health Surveys in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal; National Family Health Survey in India; and WHO estimates

South Asia: Children

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the UK has allocated to the South Asia region to reduce mortality amongst under five-year-olds. [211729]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID provides support to strengthen health services in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in the South Asia region. This support includes initiatives to reduce mortality amongst under five-year-olds.

In India, DFID support to the national Reproductive and Child Health programme and to four State level health programmes that include health totalled £55 million in 2007-08.

In Pakistan, £18.7 million was provided to support maternal and newborn health in 2007-08 and a further £15 million to support seven national programmes that included child health.

In Nepal, DFID support to strengthened health systems including child health initiatives totalled £17.3 million between 2005 and 2008.

In Bangladesh, DFID has provided £1.1 million through UNFPA for a joint UN programme on maternal and child health, and a total of £37.5 million in the last three years for the national health sector programme, which includes services to address under-five mortality.

South Asia: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to encourage progress towards achieving universal primary education in the South Asia region; and what assessment he has made of the steps necessary to meet this goal. [211736]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has major ongoing programmes of support for universal primary education in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, and is currently developing a large programme of support in Pakistan where progress lags far behind. Our support in each country forms (or will form in the case of Pakistan) part of joint-donor support to national strategies and programmes for "Education for All": these include increasing and ensuring greater equity of access to schools, improving the quality of children's learning experience and strengthening the overall management of education systems. We support improvements to, and actively engage in, monitoring so we and partner Governments are better able to measure progress and identify continuing challenges.

As a result of these national programmes, India has enrolled an additional 27 million children in primary schools since 2003; primary enrolment in Nepal stood at 87 per cent. in 2006, and there has been an 11 per cent. increase in enrolment between 2000 and 2005 in Bangladesh. Each of these three countries have also made significant progress on educating girls: Bangladesh has achieved gender parity; Nepal and India are close. Improved monitoring enables us to work with Government and others to meet remaining challenges. Despite the considerable progress noted in enrolment, achievement of universal primary education in South Asia remains threatened particularly by high drop out rates, low levels of learning achievement and inclusion of the poorest. These issues now receive increased attention in national education plans.

South Asia: Environment Protection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the obstacles to the millennium development goal for the reversal of deforestation in South Asia; and what steps are being taken by his Department to overcome these obstacles. [211733]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There is no millennium development goal for the reversal of deforestation in South Asia.

South Asia: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken by his Department to improve recording of data relating to HIV infection in the South Asia area. [211723]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Within the South Asia Region, DFID has been supporting the collection of improved data on HIV infections in India and in Pakistan.

In India, DFID supported the third National Family Health Survey in 2005-06 which included community based HIV testing for the first time and provided improved national estimates of HIV infection. DFID is also supporting the use of new and more reliable technology for HIV testing to assess HIV status, through our five year support for the National AIDS Control Programme Phase Three (2007-12).

In Pakistan, DFID has supported consultancy studies from 2004-06 to better understand the risk of HIV infection among key population groups.

South Asia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes will be overseen by the South Asia Division in his Department in 2008. [211743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2008, South Asia Division will manage country based programmes in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. We also have a small team in London working on regional issues and a joint DFID, FCO and MOD section in Sri Lanka focused on efforts to secure peace.

For further information on specific programmes, please refer to DFID's annual report 2008 "Development: Making It Happen 2008" available on our website.

South Asia: Tuberculosis

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent in the South Asia region to combat tuberculosis in each of the last three years; and what his assessment is of the performance of programmes receiving such funds. [211724]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Within the South Asia region, DFID has provided support specifically targeted at tuberculosis control in India, Nepal and Pakistan.

In India, DFID contributed £9.9 million, £8.4 million and £8.3 million in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively to the national tuberculosis control programme. The MDG (Millennium Development Goal) targets for tuberculosis control are 70 per cent. case detection and 85 per cent. cure rates. These were reached in India in 2007.

In Nepal, DFID provided £1.7 million to the national TB programme between 2005 and 2007. MDG targets were reached in 2005 and performance has since been maintained.

In Pakistan, DFID supports a set of seven national health programmes, one of which is tuberculosis control. £15 million was spent annually on the seven programmes from 2005 to 2008. The MDG targets were reached in 2007.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the UK plans to contribute to the annual budget of the World Food Programme Humanitarian Service in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [211545]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development provides humanitarian support to United Nations agencies in Sudan through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). This allows the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator to decide on priority funding needs. We have given £40 million to the CHF this year.

DFID has urged the UN to consider the case for increased CHF funding for the Humanitarian Air Service. As a first step, an additional US $4 million has already been made available and a further grant of US $2 million is under active consideration. We will continue to press the UN on this matter.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international partners on the budget of the World Food Programme Humanitarian Service in Sudan. [211547]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has engaged intensively with international partners about the funding problems being experienced by the World Food Programme's Humanitarian Air Service (HAS) in Sudan. We are encouraging the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to provide longer term funding for HAS.

In addition, DFID has urged the UN to consider the case for increased funding for the HAS. As a first step, an additional US$4m has already been made available and a further grant of US$2 million is under active consideration. These additional funds come from the Common Humanitarian Fund for Sudan, to which DFID has contributed £40 million this year.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Zimbabwean refugees in neighbouring countries; and if he will make a statement. [210488]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Current estimates indicate around 1.4 million Zimbabweans have fled to neighbouring states; the vast majority (around one million) to South Africa, with Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Malawi taking the remainder. However, the true numbers are almost impossible to obtain, particularly as many travel illegally. The United Nations High Commission for refugees classifies the vast majority of these people as economic migrants rather than refugees.

Zimbabwe: Food Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has of the numbers of people in Zimbabwe dependent on food aid. [210486]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The World Food programme estimates that around 300,000 people will be dependent on food aid this month in Zimbabwe. However, many people are currently surviving on the recent harvest. With the start of the hungry season in August, numbers requiring food aid are predicted to increase to a peak of around £4.1 million in January 2009. These figures reflect food aid needs only; they do not account for other forms of humanitarian assistance.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Zimbabweans who will be affected by the Zimbabwean government's decision to restrict the activities of international aid organisations; and if he will make a statement. [210487]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that around 1.5 million people are being affected by the Zimbabwe Government's suspension of NGO activity in Zimbabwe. If the suspension extends into July and beyond, this number will rise. The longer the suspension goes on, the more serious the impact on relief efforts. WFP's main feeding programme is due to scale up from August and should reach around four million people at the height of the hungry season in early 2009. Absence of large scale feeding programmes in the second half of the year could lead to high levels of malnutrition and increased mortality.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government have taken to protect aid agency workers in Zimbabwe. [211053]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Following a Government of Zimbabwe order suspending NGO activity across the country, DFID have been in touch with all agencies to which it provides funding to make them aware of the potential risks. We continue to press for humanitarian access at the highest levels of the UN. I have spoken personally to John Holmes and Ban Ki-moon.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 19 June 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many underage young people were *(a)* tried at magistrates courts and *(b)* convicted of buying alcohol illegally in each of the last five years. [188261]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The number of youths tried at magistrates courts and convicted for offences related to buying alcohol illegally in each of the last five years in England and Wales can be viewed in the table.

In addition the police can issue a £50 fixed penalty for the offence of "Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18" under section 149(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (c.17).The number of PNDs issued to youths aged 16 to 17 years were 0 in 2004, 17 in 2005 and 62 in 2006.

The number of persons who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to purchase of alcohol by a person aged under 18 years in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2002	13	9
2003	13	10
2004	10	8
2005	14	9
2006	8	6

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions :
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2).
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor.
Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in Licensed premises.
Licensing Act 2003 S. 149(1)(7a)
Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Asylum: Children

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to manage the costs of former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children following the recent transfer of that responsibility to her Department. [204255]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency is working to deliver faster conclusions for unaccompanied asylum seeking children—integration or removal by age 18—and consequently reduce calls on leaving care support. Alongside this, discussions are underway with local authorities about the level and management of payments for the support of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children as part of the wider implementation of "Better Outcomes: The Way Forward. Improving the Care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children" (a copy of which is in the Library, DEP2008-0274).

Departmental Accountancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 623W, on departmental accountancy, what the heading is of each data line her Department uploaded to HM Treasury's Combined On-line Information System in January 2008. [206071]

Jacqui Smith: Data lines are uploaded to COINS with codings rather than headings. These codes identify the different categories and types of spend to the COINS system.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 602W, on departmental accountancy, what assessment she has made of the cost to her Department of providing the data for departmental budget lines to HM Treasury. [206576]

Jacqui Smith: These costs are not separately identified, and cannot be determined without incurring excessive costs.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 861W, on departmental accountancy, what estimate she has made of the cost of providing the requested information. [206577]

Jacqui Smith: The cost of providing the requested information was estimated as being in excess of the current limit of £700.

All budgetary data are required to be uploaded at a high level of detail to the Treasury's Combined Online Information System (COINS), in a format that is coded to be compatible with it. This allows subsequent analysis (via COINS) across the budgets, estimates, accounts and national accounts, for publication (at aggregated level) in the national accounts, departmental report, supplementary budgetary information tables, and estimates.

These raw data were designed to be analysed by COINS, and as such are of no value without the means to decode them. The complex analysis that was requested in the original question required decoding and analysis of the raw data by a means other than COINS. It would require a range of data sources to be used, to obtain both the estimate line and departmental report heading codes and related information, to allow the level of analysis required by the question.

Staff investigated the most efficient way of providing this analysis, and then tested the viability of providing a full decoding and analysis of the uploaded data. This demonstrated that the extent of the work required to complete the full analysis would exceed the cost limit set for PQs. At that point, work stopped on the PQ.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 602W, on Departmental accountancy, what estimate she has made of the monthly cost to her Department of providing the data for 385 departmental budget lines to HM Treasury. [209860]

Jacqui Smith: Providing the monthly data is an important requirement placed on all Departments by the Treasury. No estimate of the costs has been made.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals were employed as staff by her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [206543]

Jacqui Smith: All candidates for posts within the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) are subject to the same pre-appointment checks regardless of nationality. Our pre-appointment checks ensure that we only select those that pass eligibility in accordance with the Cabinet Office nationality requirements:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/eligibility/nationality.asp

Information on whether UK citizens employed by the Home Office and its agencies were born in the UK or abroad, and on the number of foreign nationals employed is not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in England were convicted of assault in which the victim was *(a)* a female partner, *(b)* a male partner, *(c)* a child and *(d)* one of their own children in each of the last three years. [211334]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions were secured for the offence of driving without insurance in each of the last five years in London, broken down by borough. [211603]

Mr. Coaker: Information held by the Ministry of Justice relates to the offence of using a motor vehicle whilst uninsured against third party risks, it is available at police force level only. The latest year for which figures are held is 2006.

Information relating to the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas is in the following table. Information for 2007 should be available later in 2008.

Findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], within London, 2002-06

Number of offences

	Police force area		
	City of London police	Metropolitan police	Total London
2002	1,330	27,116	28,446
2003	1,605	31,463	33,068
2004	1,122	36,465	37,587
2005	1,068	36,033	37,101
2006	1,130	37,075	38,205

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).

Notes: 1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Firearms: Licensing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* firearm certificates and *(b)* shotgun certificates were (i) issued, (ii) revoked and (iii) renewed in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; [206481]

(2) how many *(a)* firearm certificates, *(b)* shotgun certificates, *(c)* firearms covered by certificates and *(d)* shotguns covered by certificates there were in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [206484]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information, relating to1995 up to and including 2005-06, is given in the tables placed in the House Library .

Fraud: Banks

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whom the police classify as the victim of a crime when someone who has had money fraudulently taken from their bank account has been reimbursed by the bank; and if she will make a statement. [211230]

Mr. Coaker: The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime (HOCR) provide guidance to police forces on how they should record and classify crimes. These are public documents available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

The Counting Rules include guidance issued to both police and financial institutions relating to fraud by false representation for cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts This guidance was agreed with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the UK Payments Association and implemented on 1 April 2007. It is clear that the financial institution is to be treated as the victim except where they have refused to refund losses to an account holder. Where an account holder is the financial loser they are to be treated as the victim for crime recording purposes.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in how many prosecutions DNA samples from the national DNA database was used in evidence since the database was created; [191173]

(2) in how many cases where convictions have been secured DNA from the national DNA database was used in evidence since the database was created. [191199]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of prosecutions in which DNA samples from the National DNA Database have been used in evidence and on any subsequent convictions is not collected centrally. Information is available on the number of crimes detected in which a DNA match was available and a suspect identified and I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend, the Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz), on 30 April 2008, *Official Report,* column 488W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 7 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs Rabia Begum. [206968]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 March 2008. This was unfortunately incorrectly addressed. A copy of this letter was sent on 19 May 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter of 28 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Mr. S. Shah. [210192]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 12 June 2008.

Passports: Interviews

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost has been of establishing each passport interview office, broken down by *(a)* capital costs, *(b)* staffing costs and *(c)* other operational costs; [202246]

(2) what has been spent on establishing and operating the network of passport interview offices. [202247]

Jacqui Smith: Staffing and operational costs per interview office are unavailable at this time as the network of offices is only just reaching full operational status. In due course it is our intention to publish the staffing and operational costs for 2008-09, the first full year of operations.

However, the monthly cost of operating the interview office network during 2008-09, including office rental, security, IT systems, administrative overheads and staff is estimated at £2.50 million. This excludes the cost of depreciation of relevant capital expenditure.

Subject to year-end adjustments for 2007-08, the total capital expenditure to date to establish the network of interview offices has been £49.9 million. Within this total, the capital costs to establish each office are as follows:

Cost centre	*Fit-out costs (£)*
Belfast	554,625
Armagh	384,173
Coleraine	364,662
Omagh	368,781
Birmingham	1,129,056
Derby	494,053
Leicester	382,369
Northampton	379,860
Shrewsbury	364,662
Stoke on Trent	372,095
Warwick	368,051
Dundee	377,292
Edinburgh	423,095
Glasgow	991,170
Aberdeen	370,649
Inverness	369,016
Oban	379,338
Stirling	374,267
Wick	365,218
Leeds	730,386
Kingston on Hull	381,155
Scarborough	379,783
Sheffield	485,260
York	401,083
Liverpool	606,682
Wrexham	375,898
Manchester	1,350,224
Blackburn	426,495
Carlisle	377,485
Dumfries	369,686
Selkirk	395,040
Kendal	364,662
Middlesbrough	421,827
Newcastle	734,647
Berwick Upon Tweed	368,781
Ripon	365,025
Crawley	373,520
Dover	378,143
Brighton	434,592
Luton	486,166
London	2,569,743
Chelmsford	431,560
Maidstone	388,721
Bristol	431,923
Cheltenham	369,335
Newport	562,411
Aberystwyth	368,781
Swansea	423,230
Swindon	369,733
Bury St Edmunds	369,189
Ipswich	369,016
Kings Lynn	376,407
Lincoln	382,119
Norwich	380,430
Peterborough	494,404
Sleaford	368,231

Cost centre	*Fit-out costs (£)*
Redruth	379,874
Exeter	377,340
Plymouth	497,120
South Molton	369,544
St. Austell	366,835
Yeovil	376,022
Bournemouth	376,501
Newport (IOW)	365,387
Oxford	377,835
Portsmouth	461,079
Reading	598,544
Andover	367,712
Total	32,588,000

Pornography: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* US and *(b)* Russian authorities on preventing access to child abuse images on the internet. [209619]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has not held any discussion with US or Russians specifically on preventing access to child abuse images on the internet.

However, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), which is funded by the Home Office, has regular contact with law enforcement overseas through the Virtual Global Taskforce, on the prevention of child exploitation.

Furthermore, the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the US recently contributed to the development of the Social Networking Guidance, produced by the Home Secretary's Taskforce on Online Child Protection. The Home Secretary met delegates from the centre at this launch event.

We have discussed with US the possibility of sharing sex offender databases.

In addition, at the June 2008 G8 Justice and Interior Ministers meeting, delegates (including representatives from the US and Russia) showed their continued commitment to combating online child abuse images.

Vetting: EU Countries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what reciprocal arrangements are in place between the UK and other EU member states to check criminal records; [206490]

(2) what plans there are to establish an EU-wide database for criminal record checks. [206491]

Jacqui Smith: There are no plans to establish an EU wide database for criminal record checks. However under Council Decision 2005/876/JHA of 21 November 2005 the United Kingdom can, in the context of criminal proceedings in the UK, send a request for criminal record information to another member state in relation to offences committed by nationals of the member state. An EU member state can, in the context of criminal proceedings in that member state, request criminal record information about a UK national from the UK.

Under the same Council Decision, the UK already receives conviction information on UK nationals who have been convicted of offences in EU member states and sends, to the member state of nationality, criminal record information on EU nationals convicted in the UK. Information received in the UK is entered on to the Police National Computer by the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records.

The European Union has agreed a general approach on a proposal for a Council Framework Decision on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from criminal records between member states. We expect the Framework Decision to be adopted by the end of 2008 with an implementation deadline of three years from the date of agreement.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Art Works: Royalties

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received from representatives of the British art market on the Artist's Resale Right, with particular reference to representations on the application of the right to living artists only. [211569]

Ian Pearson: My colleague, Baroness Morgan, the Minister responsible for Intellectual Property, has met with representatives of the art trade to discuss resale right. We have also received written representations from the British Art Market Federation on this issue.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had with university admissions tutors on the account taken of A-level qualifications in their admission assessments; and if he will make a statement; [210518]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the role of A-levels in university admission assessments; when his Department last undertook a review of the role of A-levels in admission assessments that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [210519]

Bill Rammell: I meet many leaders in higher education to discuss issues of importance to them, including the reforms to our national qualifications system and admissions. Higher education institutions are solely responsible for their own admissions and it is for them to decide the entry requirements to individual courses, including prior qualifications.

The Department does not assess the value of the wide range of entry qualifications that institutions may use to select from applicants. But the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority maintains and develops the national curriculum and associated assessments, tests and examinations, and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service's tariff is a points system used to report achievement for entry to higher education in a numerical format. It establishes agreed comparability between different types of qualifications and provides comparisons between applicants with different types and volumes of achievement.

A-levels already provide a high quality, well recognised route into HE courses for large numbers of students and the changes that are being made from September will reinforce this. New A-levels which are being taught from September this year have incorporated further stretch and challenge and the new Extended Project has been widely welcomed by admissions tutors as likely to allow applicants to demonstrate the independent study skills that they will need for HE. These will be complemented by the new diplomas and over 100 higher education institutions have already confirmed that they will include these new qualifications as part of their admissions processes. A recent report by the 1994 Group of universities shows widespread welcome for changes being made to A-levels to ensure they provide the right level of stretch and challenge for those going on to higher education. The same report was also positive about the use universities would make of the new diplomas in admissions.

Students: Fees and Charges

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consideration he has given to giving the 2009 Fee Commission a mandate to consider the needs of part-time students; and if he will make a statement. [212310]

Bill Rammell: There will be an independent review of the first three years of the new fee and student support arrangements which will make recommendations for Parliament to consider. The draft terms of reference we published for the review in January 2004 included reference to "Choice of institution and course, mode of study (full time/part time)".

But ahead of that there are a number of pressing questions about what Government and universities should do over the next 10 to 15 years to ensure we have a world class system of higher education. It is on these issues that Government, universities and others should now focus.

Students: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and proportion of higher education students studying part-time who are supported by their employers and *(b)* the average contribution made by employers to those students they support. [212309]

Bill Rammell: A 2004 study of part-time students for the DFES found that 41 per cent. of part-time students received some help with their fees from an employer, with 36 per cent. having all their fees paid. The report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR600.pdf

A reliable estimate of the average contribution made by employers to those students receiving this type of support is not available.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received assistance from the Access to Work scheme in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those people had been diagnosed with a mental illness. [211364]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

People who received assistance from Access to Work

	Received assistance	*Mental health condition (Percentage)*
2003-04	24,000	<1
2004-05	26,000	<1
2005-06	25,000	<1
2006-07	24,000	1
2007-08 (provisional)	28,000	1

Notes:
1. All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand; all percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.
2. A new, more relevant definition of participation has been established for reporting from 2007-08 onwards; data are not yet available to give a final figure for the year 2007-08. This figure is not directly comparable with figures for previous years.
3. The mental health category is based on the condition recorded on the Access to Work computer system. No records are kept on whether participants have been diagnosed with the condition. Only the primary condition of a participant is recorded, and as such, these figures are likely to underestimate the proportion of those with a mental health condition. These percentages exclude dyslexia.
4. Many people who receive assistance from Access to Work in a particular year continue to benefit from this support in further years.

Source:
The Access to Work Evaluation Database.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what organisational status Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) will have; and whether CMEC staff transferred from the Child Support Agency will retain Civil Service status. [211041]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Schedule 1 paragraph 22 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 provides that the functions of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are to be exercised on behalf of the Crown. This means that all Agency employee terms and conditions are protected on transfer and that transferred Agency people will remain civil servants as stated during the passage of the Act. It is our intention that the Commission be classified as a Crown non-departmental public body once the relevant provisions of the Act have been commenced.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in child poverty in Mid Essex *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [211245]

Mr. Timms: Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region. However, the information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Employment and Support Allowance: ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of readiness of the employment and support allowance computer system prior to the introduction of the benefit; and if he will make a statement. [211152]

Mr. Timms: The introduction of employment and support allowance and associated computer system is matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 19 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the level of readiness of the Employment and Support Allowance computer system prior to the introduction of the Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The IT platform for the delivery of Employment and Support Allowance will be built onto existing systems. By using tried and tested systems we lessen the risk associated with major change in our business.

The Employment and Support Allowance component of both computer systems continues to undergo rigorous testing by experienced test teams made up of IT experts, DWP test analysts and Jobcentre Plus operational staff.

A Model Office is in place to test the full range of Employment and Support Allowance products and processes in a 'live' office environment to provide further assurance that the system will be business ready for October 2008. Products are evaluated individually and are assured for compatibility with current business products to ensure the successful delivery of Employment and Support Allowance.

I hope this information is helpful.

Industrial Health and Safety: Redcliffe Bay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive works in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence on the maintenance of safety and security standards at the Redcliffe Bay oil storage depot site; and if he will make a statement. [211393]

Mrs. McGuire: The Redcliffe Bay oil and storage depot is subject to the provisions of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) which apply to the site due to the quantity of fuel stored there and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The site duty holder is the Oil and Pipelines Agency (OPA) which operates the depot on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. The COMAH Regulations are enforced in England and Wales by a Competent Authority comprising of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA). HSE inspects the site in respect of the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 and relevant Statutory Instruments made under the Act.

The duty holder is required to secure the site in order to control the risks arising from trespass of an ordinary member of the public. HSE is reviewing the measures taken by OPA to achieve this level of security. Conclusions reached under this review will be formally communicated to OPA. Any additional security measures which may be required to deal with such matters as terrorist issues or other criminal activities are a matter for the security services, the Home Office and the police.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of Jobcentre Plus's out-of-hours telephone service. [204907]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 19 June 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of Jobcentre Plus' Out of Hours telephone service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

We made changes to our Out Of Hours Service on 12 May. Local stakeholders were informed of the changes as part of local planning and implementation. Some local issues were raised and in a few locations we have deferred the changes until 28 May to ensure a smooth delivery of the new arrangements.

Local representations have been made by:

West Midlands: one hostel in Staffordshire, three in Birmingham area, one in Walsall and one welfare rights organisation.

North West: one homeless men's hostel and one women's hostel in the Merseyside area.

Wales: Benefits Advice Shop Charity and Emergency Social Services Association Wales.

Scotland: Social Work Department (in West and East Scotland)

South East: Welfare Rights.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was recovered by his Department's Recovery From Estates Debt Management Unit in the latest year for which figures are available; [210603]

(2) what the cost of running his Department's Recovery From Estates Debt Management Unit was in the latest year for which figures are available. [210626]

Mr. Plaskitt: Recovery From Estates recovered £23.3 million in 2007-08. The cost of running the unit was £1.4 million.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Standards

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what risk assessment she has made of pilots flying into London airports whose English language skills are not compliant with the minimum requirements of the Civil Aviation Organisation; and if she will make a statement; [211993]

(2) if she will make a statement on the findings of the Air Accident Investigation Branch investigation into the incident of a LOT Airliner, involving language communications difficulties with air traffic control on its approach to Heathrow airport; [211994]

(3) if she will prevent any airline operators from landing at London's airports who do not comply with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's requirement for pilots to be proficient in English language; and if she will make a statement. [211995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Accidents Investigation Branch investigation into LOT flight 282 on 4 June 2007 concluded that the primary cause of the incident was a single error made by the co-pilot prior to take off from Heathrow by the use of "E" instead of "W" when the longitude co-ordinates were entered into the flight management system. This led to the crew experiencing difficulties navigating the aircraft and necessitated their return to Heathrow under the guidance of air traffic control.

The AAIB report notes that the crew's difficulties were complicated by the commander of the aircraft having some difficulty comprehending and communicating with the air traffic controllers, a situation probably exacerbated by the high workload in the cockpit attendant on the navigational problems. The report suggests that the incident is indicative of problems which can arise through a lack of understanding between controllers and flight crews.

Accurate communication between flight crews and air traffic controllers is clearly a matter of the first importance to the safety of international aviation. The requirements for language proficiency for operational personnel are determined by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, which has traditionally required that air-ground radiotelephony communications shall be conducted in the language normally used by the station on the ground or in the English language.

In 2003, with UK support, ICAO took steps to reinforce rules on language proficiency. It set a deadline of March 2008 for proficiency in Level 4 (operational) and above English for all pilots flying international routes, and for ATC controllers serving international airports and routes. The proficiency scale ranges from Level 1 to Level 6, with guidelines published for pronunciation, fluency, structure, vocabulary, comprehension and interaction. Level 4 (operational) proficiency is considered as a minimum 'stepping stone' to higher levels.

The UK became compliant with ICAO's language proficiency requirements on 5 March 2008.

However, in recognition that not all states would be able to comply fully by March 2008, ICAO, while urging states to meet the deadline if at all possible, has allowed for a transition period from March 2008 until March 2011. The Polish Civil Aviation Office are due to specify a date by which they will comply with the ICAO requirement for English language proficiency.

I naturally hope that all ICAO signatory states become compliant with the language proficiency requirements as soon as possible. As ICAO Level 4 (operational) proficiency in English is not yet binding on States, however, the UK, as an ICAO signatory, cannot make this a requirement for granting permission to foreign airlines to operate to UK airports.

I understand however that evaluation of this incident by UK air navigation services provider, NATS, has identified to a number of learning points which have been incorporated into NATS' "Training for Unusual and Emergency Circumstances" package which all controllers are required to complete annually.

The European Aviation Safety Agency is consulting on its draft implementing rules for operations and flight crew licensing from May to November 2008. These proposals include legal requirements on language proficiency.

Bicycles

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to increase the provision of bicycle racks in public places. [211750]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The provision of bicycle racks in public places is the responsibility of individual local authorities.

We encourage all local authorities to develop a cycling strategy as part of their local transport plan (LTP). This can include the provision of bicycle racks as well as on and off road cycle facilities such as cycle tracks and cycle lanes.

In January the Department announced a £140 million investment, over the next three years, for its cycling delivery body, Cycling England. This will complement local authority spend. £47 million of this has been allocated to extending the cycling demonstration towns (CDTs) programme to include up to 17 towns and a large city. As part of their programmes the successful CDTs will be able to provide cycle parking as well as other facilities for cyclists.

As part of the proposed package of public transport improvements to complement the planned congestion charge scheme, the Greater Manchester authorities intend to provide more than 2,500 extra cycle parking spaces introduced at 250 new locations and secure long-term parking facilities for bikes at rail and Metrolink stations.

We made funds available to provide over 2,500 cycle parking spaces in 2004-05, together with cycle shelters and CCTV at various stations all round the country.

In addition to this many train operators have provided improved cycle parking at public interchanges often working with local authorities. For example, TfL have provided improved cycle parking including the introduction of the innovative cycle centre at Finsbury Park Station, and Surrey county council have also worked with train operators to improve cycle parking at a number of stations in the county.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to promote road safety amongst cyclists. [211751]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of Tuesday 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 848W, to the hon. Member for the City of Chester (Christine Russell).

Cars: Research

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1894W, to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) on cars: research, what studies in this area conducted elsewhere in the EU her Department has evaluated. [210599]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is aware of EU studies on eco-driving techniques. However, these relate to the most efficient way of driving in different traffic conditions rather than to the effects of constant speed driving. We are not aware of any specific EU studies which have been undertaken on the most economical constant driving speed.

My response of 22 April indicated that we had taken account of the results of EU research in deriving emissions factors. The principal study considered was the EU ARTEMIS programme. However data from COST 319 (MEET), COPERT 4, PARTICULATES and OSCAR programmes were also considered in deriving emissions factors.

A summary of the ARTEMIS programme is available at http://www.trl.co.uk/ARTEMIS/. Publication of the final report[1] is currently pending.

Details of the COST 319 (MEET), COPERT and PARTICIPATES programmes are available at:

http://www.inrets.fr/infos/cost319/index.html

http://lat.eng.auth.gr/copert/

http://lat.eng.auth.gr/particulates/

Unfortunately the OSCAR programme website is no longer available.

[1] Boulter, P.G. and McCrae, I.S. (editors) (2007). Assessment and reliability of transport emission models and inventory systems. Final Report of the 5FP EU ARTEMIS (Assessment and reliability of transport emission models and inventory systems) project. DG TREN Contract No. 1999-RD. 10429. Deliverable No. 15. TRL report UPR/IE/044/07, TRL Limited, Wokingham.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on training courses for staff in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [210561]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table sets out the amounts that the Department for Transport has spent on training courses for staff over the last five years:

	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Central DfT (£m)	3.1	2.8	2.5	3.1	2.1
Highways Agency (£m)	7.25	7.0	7.1	7.05	6.96
Government Car and Despatch Agency (£000)	170	2.6	1.1	0.8	0.2
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (£m)	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.1	1.7
Marine and Coastguard Agency (£m)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.2
Driving Standards Agency (£000)	847	745	780	678	594
Vehicle Certification Agency (£000)	146	195	118	159	126
Vehicle Operator Service Agency (£000)	604	496	589	515	449

Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that sufficient rolling stock continues to be available to First Great Western (FGW) to operate the Cardiff-Portsmouth line in the event that Arriva give notice that they wish to terminate the arrangement whereby their rolling stock is leased to FGW. [211090]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* The Department for Transport remains in dialogue with the parties involved to ensure they understand what risk there may be of the additional trains being recalled, and how that risk can be mitigated.

Heathrow Airport: Passengers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers connecting between flights at Heathrow Airport began their journeys in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France, *(c)* Belgium, *(d)* the Netherlands, *(e)* Luxembourg, *(f)* Germany, *(g)* Austria, *(h)* Switzerland, *(i)* Italy, *(j)* Spain and *(k)* other locations in the last year for which figures are available. [211100]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of passengers connecting (transferring) between flights at Heathrow airport who began their journeys at locations in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France, *(c)* Belgium, *(d)* the Netherlands, *(e)* Luxembourg, *(f)* Germany, *(g)* Austria, *(h)* Switzerland, *(i)* Italy, *(j)* Spain and *(k)* other locations, in 2007 are shown in the following table:

Country from	*Transfer passengers (thousands)*
Austria	195
Belgium	307
France	790
Germany	968
Italy	545
Luxembourg	20
Netherlands	390
Spain	709
Switzerland	312
United Kingdom	2,573
Other locations	16,050
Total transfer passengers at Heathrow	22,860

Motorways: Road Traffic Control

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation her Department undertook on the ramp metering scheme model before its implementation on the highway network. [208086]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency (HA) developed a deliberately proactive stakeholder engagement strategy to support the wider implementation of ramp metering across its network. The purpose of the strategy was to explain the concepts and anticipated benefits of ramp metering, introduce the project structure and the sites selected for implementation, engender understanding, trust and support among stakeholders, provide a coherent and consistent picture of progress and minimise the risk of mis-information.

Due to the extent to which ramp metering affects the operation of the motorway, the HA recognised that there would be a wide range of interested parties, both at a national and local level, with whom it would be essential to liaise. These included the network 'consumers' (nationally and local to a scheme), regional and local government, police and other emergency services, driver and business representative groups, suppliers and staff.

The stakeholder engagement strategy and associated communications plan provided a detailed identification of the main stakeholders and their information needs, the roles and responsibilities for stakeholder engagement and the key messages and available channels of communication. Different types of communications included presentations, press notices, briefing notes, meetings, leaflets and a publicity video.

As an example, for the new sites on the M4 in the South East, liaison has taken place with the following stakeholders:

Slough Borough Council (including SBC communications team);

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (including RBWM communications team);

Royal Berkshire Ambulance Trust;

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services;

Metropolitan Police Service;

East Regional Control Centre; and

South East Regional Control Centre.

Network Rail

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the role of the Office of Rail Regulation is in respect of network enhancements proposed by Network Rail; and if she will make a statement; [211081]

(2) for what reasons the Office of Rail Regulation rejected the scheme proposed by Network Rail to redouble track between Swindon and Kemble. [211080]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the Secretary of State's publication of the High Level Output Specification (HLOS), specifying what she wants the railways to deliver over the five years from 2009 to 2014, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) asked Network Rail to publish a plan on behalf of the industry setting out how the Government's requirements could be delivered. Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan included enhancement schemes that it considered were needed to deliver the specified outputs.

In its draft determinations, ORR set out which enhancement projects it proposes to provide funding for. Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan included redoubling the track between Swindon and Kemble, but ORR concluded that this was not necessary to deliver the performance improvements specified in the HLOS.

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of her Department have been seconded to work on transport issues for the 2012 Olympic Games; which organisations they have been seconded to; and when their secondments will *(a)* commence and *(b)* finish. [211413]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no Department for Transport officials seconded to work on transport issues for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Parking

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of her Department have access to car parking facilities at each Department and agency building. [209051]

Jim Fitzpatrick: General staff car parking facilities are not available at the Department's London headquarters buildings. Elsewhere, car parking facilities are allocated according to site specific local policy. Information on arrangements at each building has been placed in the Library of the House.

A listing by building for the regional sites operated by the Driving Standards Agency and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the maximum average load factor is at each station identified in Table A4 and A5 of her Department's 2007 White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, in the last year for which figures are available; [211420]

(2) what the *(a)* forecast passenger demand and *(b)* train capacity was at each station identified in Table A4 and A5 of her Department's 2007 White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, in the last year for which figures are available; [211421]

(3) who in her Department has responsibility for policy on train capacity; and whether a national study on train capacity is planned. [211422]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average maximum load factor for each London termini is shown on table figure 5.4 on page 53 of the 2007, White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, published in July 2007 and available on the departmental website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/.

These are the most recent data available.

The load factor data for the regional cities shown on table figure 5.5 on page 55 of the White Paper are also the most recent data available for these cities.

The Forecast Passenger Demand and Train Capacity data contained in the White Paper are the most recent available data.

A national study on train capacity was conducted to inform the proposals contained in the White Paper.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has introduced to ensure that train companies providing long-distance travel allow standard class passengers to sit in first class when there are no seats available in standard class. [212246]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train companies guarantee the provision of seats where reservations have been made. Seat reservations are automatically included with many tickets, such as quota controlled 'Advance' fares.

In other circumstances, on-train staff may give permission for holders of Standard Class tickets to travel in First Class accommodation without extra charge. Alternatively they may declassify First Class carriages. However, this is a matter for the train companies and their staff and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Railways: Electrification

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department are working on plans to upgrade or increase railway electrification. [208315]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government committed in last year's rail White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", to keep the case for further rail electrification under review. The improving business case suggests great potential for a rolling programme of electrification, and the Department continues to work with the rail industry to explore how the cost of electrification can be reduced, and to prioritise schemes. A number of officials are at times engaged with this work, and as a result, it is not possible to provide a simple figure. Upgrades of existing electrification infrastructure are a matter for Network Rail.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* railways and *(b)* roads, including Highways Agency allocations for each year of the Department's existence; and what the projected figures are for 2008-09. [206173]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 16 May 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

							£ million
			Outturn			*Estimated outturn*	*Plans*
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Rail	3390	4236	4252	3608	4632	4450	3700
Roads	4816	4912	5496	6159	6970	7400	7827
Of which:							
Highways Agency	4209	4283	4769	5405	6204	6460	6937
Other roads spend	607	629	727	754	766	940	890

The Department also provides funding to local authorities via the Department's Integrated Transport Block and for Local Authority Major Schemes, as follows:

							£ million
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Funding provided to LAs (including roads)	915	933	717	659	631	892	1043

Local authorities spend this funding both on road-related schemes and public transport projects. It is not possible to disaggregate the data between the different types of project.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what schemes her Department plans to allocate funding from the Designated Community Rail Fund. [211747]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Designated Community Rail Development Fund is a new initiative intended to assist with locally based schemes such as small scale station improvements (signage, seating, landscaping, artwork), promotions (web-sites, leaflets, posters, special events) and community engagement (work with schools, youth clubs, groups who are from socially excluded groups).

The mix of schemes that will be funded will depend on what applications are made by Community Rail Partnerships on designated routes.

Railways: Overcrowding

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for her Department's calculation that each rail passenger requires 0.45 square metres of space as stated on page 153 of her Department's 2007 White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway. [211417]

Mr. Tom Harris: As the White Paper states, the 0.45 square metres figure is one that has been in general use within the industry. It has been used for some time, in conjunction with other measures which are also described in the White Paper, as a rule of thumb when calculating train capacity. It was determined by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), based on earlier work by the British Railways Board.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the margins for error in her Department's figures on train capacity; [211423]

(2) what methods are used by her Department and its agencies to calculate train capacity. [211424]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport's calculation of train capacity is based on a consistently applied calculation, which uses the size of the interior of each passenger railway vehicle, divided by a space of 0.45 m^2 which is an industry-standard calculation of the space occupied by each passenger.

Any structures, such as luggage racks are included in the calculation, and the total size of the vehicle interior is reduced accordingly to reflect where these structures exist. These calculations are updated when modifications are made to the interior of any fleet of passenger rail vehicles.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the supporting evidence is for her Department's calculation, for rolling stock with no information on furnishable space available, that train capacity is 1.4 times the number of seats, and 1.2 times the number of seats on inter-city rolling stock. [211418]

Mr. Tom Harris: This calculation was undertaken to support the rail High Level Output Specification, published in July 2007. For the small numbers of rolling stock where detailed information was not readily available at the time, the train capacity was based on the approximate mid-point of the range of similar trains where full data were available. While commuter and regional rolling stock types have similar seat and standing densities, inter-city rolling stock tends to have a lower seating density.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* locomotives, *(b)* multiple units, *(c)* freight wagons and *(d)* carriages were in use on the rail network in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) train operating company and (ii) class. [211419]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but is widely available in the specialist press.

Railways: Scotland

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1895W, on railways: Scotland, what work she has asked Network Rail to undertake on new lines and high speed rail lines between England and Scotland. [210600]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail accepted an invitation from the Secretary of State to develop longer term options for the railway network. This will include consideration of new and high-speed lines.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains she plans to order in the first phase of the *(a)* Thameslink and *(b)* Intercity Express Programme Order in the summer of 2009. [211405]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows:

(a) Thameslink

The Thameslink Rolling Stock project intends to order an entire new fleet to operate the enhanced Thameslink service from December 2015. The fleet size will be between 900 and 1,300 vehicles depending on detailed service planning. It is intended to award a single contract for the whole fleet in summer 2009 at which time the delivery schedule for the vehicles will be agreed.

(b) Inter-city Express Programme

In the case of the Inter-city Express Programme (IEP) the number of trains will be determined by the train service provider based on the performance regime they have contracted to meet and the number of trains required to operate the timetable for the chosen routes. While the Secretary of State for Transport will provide a commitment to use the trains over a 20 year period there will not be an order for a specific number of trains. Consequently, until IEP bids have been received and evaluated a broad estimate of between 600 and 1,200 vehicles can be assumed.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 265W, on rolling stock: procurement, how many of the 317 vehicles ordered from manufacturers will be delivered in October 2008. [211871]

Mr. Tom Harris: The intention is that four electric multiple unit vehicles will be delivered to the London Midland Franchise in October 2008 subject to completion of the testing and acceptance requirements.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 265W, on rolling stock: procurement, what the date of delivery is of each carriage ordered; and on which line each carriage will be delivered. [211952]

Mr. Tom Harris: The detailed delivery dates and exact allocation of rolling stock is for the train operator to manage. The new vehicle orders apply to Chiltern Railways, New Southern Railways and London Midland.

Trains: Procurement

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information was provided to her Department by Alstom and Barclays Private Equity on their reasons for withdrawing from the tendering process to build trains under the Intercity Express Programme. [209663]

Mr. Tom Harris: Alstom advised the Department for Transport that it decided to withdraw from the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) competition to focus instead on other major rolling stock opportunities. The Department is reassured that Alstom remains committed to the UK rail market and we look forward to receiving robust bids from IEP bidders in the coming weeks.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Civil Servant Prosecutions

6. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Solicitor-General what role law officers play in decisions to prosecute civil servants on matters arising out of their employment. [212147]

The Solicitor-General: If the offence is one for which the consent of the Attorney to prosecute is not required, the decision whether to prosecute would be taken by the relevant prosecuting authority. If the offence requires the consent of the Attorney, and the Attorney received a request for consent, she would deal with it in the normal way—namely form a view as to whether there was sufficient evidence and whether a prosecution was in the public interest. The decision would be taken independently of Government.

Rape Victims

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress she has made in her proposals to seek the admission in rape trials of evidence on the psychological reactions of rape victims. [212148]

The Solicitor-General: Two joint inspectorate reports in 2002 and 2007 identified that the attitude to the victim within the court process was key to improving conviction rate and so have convened a group of experts including the judiciary to look at potential ways to dispel the myths that unfairly influence juries.

Careless Driving

8. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on bringing into force the legislative provision establishing the offence of causing death by careless driving. [212149]

The Solicitor-General: I am aware that colleagues at the Ministry of Justice have previously confirmed that the new offence will be commenced after the Sentencing Guidelines Council has published guidelines for the court. These are expected later in the summer and the Ministry of Justice will work closely with other interested Departments to agree an implementation date.

National Fraud Strategic Authority

9. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made in the work of the National Fraud Strategic Authority and Reporting Centre. [212151]

The Solicitor-General: The National Fraud Strategic Authority is being established to co-ordinate a national strategy to combat fraud, to be in place by the end of the year. Proposals for a National Fraud Reporting Centre that will provide major enhancements for reporting fraud and acting on fraud intelligence is now in an early pilot stage.

Prosecutions: Northampton

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General in what proportion of prosecutions in Northamptonshire victim personal statements *(a)* formed part of the case files and *(b)* were shared with the court in the last 12 months. [212376]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not retain data for the proportion of victim personal statements, which form part of the prosecution file or the proportion of victim personal statements which are shared with the court.

However, the CPS recognises the importance that victim personal statements can have to inform the decision to prosecute and the appropriate charges and the added value in providing victims of crime with an opportunity to inform the court about the impact the crime has had on their lives. Systems and procedures have been developed to ensure that victim personal statements are drawn to the courts attention. Additionally, under the CPS victim focus scheme, crown prosecutors play a key role in assisting bereaved families to prepare a victim personal statement.

Shoplifting: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions were brought for shoplifting by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [212150]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS data are only broken down by offences and can only provide prosecutions for theft as an offence. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Ministry of Justice on 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 987W.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the use of Chequers of draft proposals in the National Air Traffic Service's consultation on the use of airspace over South East England. [212379]

The Prime Minister: None. I will continue to use Chequers consistent with the Chequers Estate Acts and consistent with the practice of previous administrations.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Gender Equality: Carers

16. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on equality between men and women in providing care. [212143]

Barbara Follett: As I said in the response to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown). We recognise that the majority of caring, around 70 per cent. is done by women. The Prime Minister launched the revised National Carers Strategy on 10 June. It set out a £255 million package of support for carers. Throughout the development of this strategy I had discussions with ministerial colleagues about support for men and women.

WALES

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 894-95W, on council tax: valuation, how many dwellings in Wales had their council tax banding amended by the 2005 council tax revaluation. [211653]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Statistics showing the revised property bandings that resulted from the 2005 valuation are shown in the following table.

	Number
Revised A bandings	
A	172,006
B	72,088
C	9,523
D	1,549
E	414
F	183
G	59
H	10
I	3
Revised B bandings	
A	26,765
B	188,485
C	97,768
D	11,056
E	1,398
F	290
G	110
H	18
I	5
Revised C bandings	
A	673
B	23,211
C	155,687
D	69,882
E	13,532
F	1,661
G	317
H	28
I	8
Revised D bandings	
A	27
B	671
C	25,300
D	106,606
E	56,818
F	9,689
G	1,303
H	85
I	18
Revised E bandings	
A	5
B	32
C	736
D	16,713
E	88,919
F	49,495
G	7,668
H	470
I	79
Revised F bandings	
A	1
B	1
C	8
D	301
E	7,060
F	38,314
G	17,163
H	1,377
I	227
Revised G bandings	
A	0
B	3
C	3
D	17

	Number
E	115
F	3,646
G	22,482
H	9,258
I	2,721
Revised H bandings	
A	0
B	2
C	0
D	0
E	2
F	6
G	85
H	806
I	2,487

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1682-83W, on council tax: valuation, how many dwellings have changed band since the 2005 revaluation, in terms of moving *(a)* up a band or more and *(b)* down a band or more. [211832]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Pursuant to my answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1682-83W, 1.55 per cent. of bandings were changed as a result of challenges during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007. All of these changes would have resulted in a property moving down one or more bands as where, on reassessment, no reduction in banding is found to be appropriate, the taxpayer is invited to withdraw their appeal.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the banding amendments that have been made in Cardiff by the Valuation Office Agency subsequent to the 2005 council tax revaluation; and how many dwellings in Cardiff have seen their original bandings move to a higher band. [211925]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost at the moment but the Valuation Office Agency are currently developing the capability to provide this information and it will available in due course.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what role the Welsh Assembly Government plays in the valuation of properties for council tax purposes; and how responsibilities are divided between the Valuation Office Agency, Welsh Assembly Government, his Department, the Department for Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury. [211926]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for local government in Wales and as such can request the revaluation of properties within the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Valuation Office Agency is responsible for compiling and maintaining council tax valuation lists for all homes in Wales.

No other Government body has any responsibility for the valuation of properties in Wales.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212118]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No Ministers or officials from my Department are attending the Beijing Olympics.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2352W, on alcoholic drinks: children, if he will break down the figures provided by region. [186358]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The figures for the number of cautions issued and the average fine issued for the offences of selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18, can be found in the following tables, which have been broken down by region.

Number of defendants issued with a caution for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years, by region, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	17	5	14	7	2	4	0	3	3	8
North West	63	18	12	8	20	33	27	42	34	27
Yorkshire and Humberside	25	7	7	8	1	—	18	21	27	7
East Midlands	7	8	15	16	5	2	3	7	2	0
West Midlands	6	5	3	3	12	2	3	7	11	3
East of England	23	6	7	0	1	11	9	5	0	2
London	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East	19	9	6	3	4	0	0	3	2	3
South West	4	14	0	0	0	4	2	11	12	8
Wales	6	4	5	8	3	3	1	2	7	0

Number of defendants issued with a caution for offences relating to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years, by region, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England and Wales	171	76	69	53	48	59	63	101	98	58

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions :

Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1). Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.

Licensing Act 2003 S.146

Sale of alcohol to person under 18.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by CJEA - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Average fine levied for offences of selling alcohol to persons under 18, by region, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Average fine amount (£)

Offences	Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises; Sale of alcohol to person under 18	North East	321	237	164	110	118	250	259	221	204	443
	North West	129	233	254	256	244	201	209	220	212	252
	Yorkshire and Humberside	129	120	193	217	244	221	100	226	183	213
	East Midlands	150	-	225	375	300	404	247	259	262	283
	West Midlands	351	228	185	108	160	240	253	209	209	340
	East of England	172	168	186	370	125	400	306	169	302	332
	London	210	280	180	200	200	350	306	288	284	312
	South East	314	317	175	250	250	183	306	281	361	282
	South West	150	167	220	450	250	330	323	272	207	353
	Wales	186	181	229	267	100	250	211	192	243	335
	Total	227	212	194	206	208	249	253	237	246	305

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS, Analytical Services

Broadcasting: Political Impartiality

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent research has been undertaken by Ofcom on impartiality in news reporting in public service broadcasting; and if he will make a statement. [212193]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for Ofcom. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chef Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210979]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and child codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description. I am arranging for copies of this document to be deposited in the House Libraries.

The Department intends to review its chart of accounts during the summer, which may result in changes to the chart or the descriptions used.

Football: Broadcasting

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the UK statement of intervention in *(a)* FIFA's challenge to the European Commission's re-verification of the Belgian listed events regime and *(b)* FIFA's and UEFA's challenges to the re-verification of the UK listed events regime. [212382]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I do not intend to publish the UK's Statement in Intervention in relation to FIFA's challenge to the European Commission's re-verification of the Belgian list of events. The content of pleadings before the Court of First Instance is confidential and no third party may have access to this without the authorisation of the President of the Court of First Instance after the parties have been heard.

The UK has indicated its intention to intervene in the FIFA and UEFA challenges to the re-verification of the UK's list of events. However, Statements in Intervention in those cases are not yet due to be submitted to the Court.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what funds his Department has allocated to events to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012; [209290]

(2) what plans his Department has made for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012. [209291]

Margaret Hodge: We are in discussions with the Royal Household as to how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

Television: Sight Impaired

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to encourage the introduction of talking menus for television services provided from digital platforms to assist the visually impaired. [209718]

Andy Burnham: A range of organisations and TV manufacturers are working on the technical development of talking menus for the mainstream TV market. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is supportive of this work and BERR, through their Usability Action Plan, will help in the promotion of products at the appropriate time.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211760]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately record the purchase of desks and chairs from other office furnishings; the total expenditure on office furnishings was:

	£
2003-04	9,085
2004-05	32,236
2005-06	33,077
2006-07	15,989
2007-08	13,347

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Absent Voting

Mr. Evans: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what consideration the Commission has given to proposals to increase the integrity of postal ballots at elections. [212154]

Sir Peter Viggers: While the Commission believes that recent legislative changes have resulted in improvements in postal ballot integrity, it maintains that further reform is necessary. Specifically, the Commission considers that individual electoral registration will provide a more secure foundation for postal voting in Great Britain. The Commission will continue to issue detailed guidance to all those involved in the electoral process.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Home Working

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office are authorised to work from home. [212519]

Helen Goodman: Staff and managers are able to consider various forms of flexible working, including home working. Arrangements for home working are made locally by individual line managers and no record is held.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Ministers of Religion: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners when the Church Commissioners last met the Archbishop of Canterbury to discuss the stipendiary pay of parish priests in rural areas. [212131]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church Commissioners met with the Archbishop only yesterday at the Annual General Meeting of the Church Commissioners at Lambeth Palace where I took the opportunity to discuss stipend levels.

I would advise the hon. Lady that the national stipends benchmark is £20,980 but dioceses set their own policy on the application of national recommendations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the Government's biofuels policy. [211876]

Mr. Woolas: We have received a number of representations from a range of stakeholders, including hon. Members, environmental and industry bodies, the food sector and the public on various issues concerning biofuels.

Carbon Emissions: Advisory Services

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many enquiries the green homes service pilot has dealt with since 2 April 2008, broken down by type of enquiry. [211017]

Joan Ruddock: The number of inquiries dealt with by the Green Homes Service for April and May 2008, (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland but not Scotland), are shown in the following table:

	April	*May*
In-bound telephone calls	31,586	23,019
Total verbal customer contacts	45,737	42,822
Overall customers receiving advice	91,595	70,512

As well as telephone contacts, figures for in-bound telephone calls include face-to-face contact at promotional and awareness-raising events.

The overall figures for customers receiving advice includes those who have completed a home energy check and received feedback, and those who have contacted the service electronically.

The type of inquiries are listed as follows:

By inquiry type:

Inbound calls 34 per cent.

Commit campaign participants 30 per cent.

Completed Home Energy Check 26 per cent.

Questionnaires 7 per cent.

Outbound call 3 per cent.

Letter/e-mail <1 per cent.

By inquiry topic—not mutually exclusive:

Energy efficiency 94 per cent.

Transport 8 per cent.

Renewables 4 per cent.

Waste/water <1 per cent.

Climate Change: Arctic

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what forecasts his Department has made of the area of Arctic summer sea ice in each year from 2008 to 2013; on what evidential basis these forecasts have been made; and if he will make a statement. [211214]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 929W.

Coastal Areas: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the potential effect of the digging of a deep channel in the Thames adjacent to *(a)* the Canvey Island sea defences and *(b)* the Sir Richard Montgomery ammunition ship wreck; and if he will make a statement. [209630]

Jonathan Shaw: The dredging of the Thames to provide navigation, manoeuvring and berthing depth for the ships using the new port, will be carried out under Tidal Works Approval from the Port of London Authority (PLA). An application for Tidal Works Approval is to be submitted to the PLA shortly. The Environment Agency will be consulted on this application and will consider the impact of the dredging work on the flood defence structures as part of its assessment of the application.

The navigation channel, which will be deepened to accommodate vessels using the new port, is approximately 2 km from the wreck. D. P. World, the developer of the London Gateway Port, is aware of the existence of the wreck and the company's dredging contractor will have no need to work in close proximity to it.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by civil servants in his Department in the last 12 months. [210576]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA encourages staff to develop their skills and capability outside of traditional training courses. Over the past 12 months DEFRA staff had access to a range of management training aligned to the organisation's strategic objectives. Management Information shows that 2,436 core DEFRA staff attended internal training courses in the last financial year.

Dry Stone Walls

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the length and proportion of dry stone walls in each of the national parks in England that is in a ruinous state. [211470]

Jonathan Shaw: I have made no estimate of the length and proportion of dry stone walls in each of the National Parks that are in a ruinous state.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons contractors have replaced the Environment Agency's electricians, carpenters, welders and divers at its in-house craft workshop in the Thames Region. [208429]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has contracted out craft work of a non-emergency nature. Craft posts required for emergency response at critical assets remain in-house.

The reasons for contracting out work include:

contractors are better able to use specialist craft skills;

reorganisation will provide better value and a more rational structure;

contractors do this work every day as it is their core business and are more likely to innovate;

Thames' craft teams are generally small and there were difficulties recruiting and maintaining skills; and

long-term contractual arrangements provide more certainty about maintenance standards.

Thames region has largely been able to use current contractors to undertake the work which was previously undertaken in-house. The review has led to no forced redundancies.

Fertilisers: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to try to mitigate the effects of rising fertiliser prices on farmers. [211987]

Jonathan Shaw: We are aware that current high energy prices are having a knock-on effect on the price of manufactured 'inorganic' fertilisers. Hilary Benn recently discussed this issue when he met the Agricultural Industries Confederation, which represents the UK fertiliser sector. We are alert to the potential impact high fertiliser prices may have on farmers and we will continue to monitor the situation.

Farmers will need to make greater use of best practice to ensure efficient fertiliser use. Some farmers will also need to consider increased use of 'organic' fertilisers such as manures. Other options include the use of digestate from Anaerobic Digestion.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the National Flood Emergency Framework set out in the Pitt Review on the summer floods of 2007; and when he expects the framework to be implemented. [210428]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is preparing the timetable and a project plan with support from the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) and have drawn together a Project Board and terms of reference with a view to implementing a National Framework for flooding over the coming two years.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent in the last 18 months on improving flood defences; and on which defences. [210430]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 November 2006 and 31 May 2008 the Environment Agency spent approximately £720 million in England on flood defence related activity including asset maintenance, flood warning, mapping, development control and capital projects. The total capital expenditure was around £316 million, the majority being used to build new defences and improve existing ones.

Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of public awareness of the need for flood kits and practical home improvements in case of a flood; and if he will make a statement. [211899]

Mr. Woolas: According to DEFRA's own research, only about one-third of flooded households and less than one in 10 non-flooded households have taken any measures to mitigate the effects of flooding and very few have purchased protection measures for their home.

DEFRA has funded six pilots (at a cost of £500,000) to examine the feasibility of developing a grant scheme for householders on flood resilience. These pilots have just completed and we are expecting their final reports in the near future.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the implementation of a telephone flood warning scheme; and if he will make a statement. [211901]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has delivered a telephone flood warning service since 1996. Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD), implemented in 2006, sends flood warnings by telephone, fax, text, pager, or e-mail to customers registered on the system.

This system is supported by the Floodline service, operational since 1999, which provides the public with an alternative telephone route to gaining localised flooding information.

Since June 2007, 73,390 people have registered with FWD. The total number of people now registered on the system is 328,336.

The Pitt Review interim report recommended that the Environment Agency should work urgently with telecommunications companies to roll-out 'opt-out' telephone flood warning schemes to all homes and businesses liable to flooding, including ex-directory households.

The Environment Agency is working closely with British Telecom and Ofcom to progress efforts to transfer data from the Emergency Services Database to Flood Warnings Direct. This database has been identified as the most appropriate information source to deliver an 'opt-out' approach for Flood Warnings Direct.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the development of the *(a)* draft and *(b)* final National Flood Emergency Framework. [211904]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is preparing the timetable and a project plan with support from the civil contingencies secretariat (CCS) with a view to implementing a National Framework for flooding over the coming two years.

While an initial document is expected to be ready to share before the end of the year, the timetable has yet to be finalised. We must ensure that not only a document is produced, but moreover, that each attribute of the framework is delivered during this time frame.

Floods: Utilities

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made to safeguard the critical infrastructure of utility companies from flooding. [210429]

Mr. Woolas: In response to the Interim Pitt Report, the Government have agreed to set up a Natural Hazards team, dedicated to reducing the disruption caused by natural events to national infrastructure.

Insulation: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions resulted from illegal disposal of plastic foam insulation containing ozone-depleting substances in each year since 2004. [210481]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency have advised that there have been no prosecutions resulting specifically from the illegal disposal of foam insulation containing ozone-depleting substances since 2004.

Livestock: Animal Welfare

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Rural Payments Agency has power to impose further sanctions on farmers convicted for cruelty to farm animals. [211237]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* Anyone may take a prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. On conviction, the maximum penalties available for an offence of unnecessary suffering are a fine of £20,000 or six month's imprisonment, or both. The maximum penalties for failing to provide for the welfare of an animal are a fine of £5,000 or six month's imprisonment, or both.

The court may, in addition to any other punishment on conviction, deprive a person of ownership of an animal. The court may also disqualify the person convicted from having custody of any animal for such a period as it thinks fit. This could mean a lifetime ban from keeping animals. Additionally, DEFRA may refuse authorisation to transport animals to farmers within three years of conviction for such an offence.

If Animal Health finds that animal welfare is compromised on the farm of a single farm payment claimant, they may report this as a breach to the RPA (in England), who may apply a penalty reduction in the calendar year in which the breach occurred. While civil (via cross compliance) and criminal proceedings could arise out of the same offence, penalties cannot be applied retrospectively by the RPA in response to the conviction of a claimant for animal welfare offences.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons the proposed Marine Management Organisation will not have responsibility for the registration of fishing vessels; [211557]

(2) what consideration he has given to transferring *(a)* regulation of offshore oil and gas licensing, *(b)* regulation of ship-to-ship oil transfer, *(c)* regulation of merchant shipping and *(d)* registration of fishing vessels to the proposed Marine Management Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [212012]

Jonathan Shaw: The proposed Marine Management Organisation will be the Government's regulator of most activities in the marine environment—with some exceptions, as set out in the policy document published alongside the draft Marine Bill.

The Marine Bill White Paper published in March 2007 explained that the current system of licensing oil and gas infrastructure and activity works well, and there is no compelling evidence that integrating it with others would achieve any benefits. The Government therefore intend the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) to remain responsible for delivering this service.

Similarly, careful consideration has been given by DEFRA and the Department for Transport (DFT) to the relationship between the MMO and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)—an executive agency of the Department for Transport, responsible throughout the UK for implementing the Government's maritime safety policy, including the co-ordination of search and rescue at sea, ensuring that ships meet UK and international safety rules, and the environmental control of shipping in UK waters.

It is important to maintain the MCA as a separate organisation with a clear, single focus on shipping and maritime safety. The regulation of merchant shipping (including ship-to-ship oil transfer) sits firmly within the MCAs remit.

DEFRA and DfT officials are currently considering whether the MMO should take on responsibility for the registration of fishing vessels which is currently delivered across the UK by MCA alongside the registration of non-fishing vessels.

Part 1, chapter 3 of the draft Marine Bill provides flexible arrangements to enable the delivery of marine functions by the MMO. This provides a flexible tool which could enable any Secretary of State to enter into an arrangement with the MMO to deliver any marine functions in the future were this considered the most effective and efficient delivery mechanism.

The MMO will need to develop effective working relationships with a range of other bodies with responsibilities in the marine area—including the MCA and BERR. We envisage Memoranda of Understanding being drawn up between the MMO and these other bodies to clarify how they will work together.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to employ consultants to advise on the creation of the Marine Management Organisation. [211558]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is seeking to follow best practice in establishing the Marine Management Organisation, taking into account the lessons learned from the establishment of other non-departmental public bodies, including Natural England. This includes ensuring appropriate expertise is available and may include the use of consultants if appropriate.

Consultants are currently engaged in providing an independent recommendation on the location of the headquarters office of the Marine Management Organisation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take to protect staff of the proposed Marine Management Organisation from personal litigation arising from their discharge of Government functions; [212010]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications for staff of the proposed Marine Management Organisation of being post holders in the organisation rather than Crown servants; and if he make a statement. [212014]

Jonathan Shaw: The proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will be an Executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) and its staff will be public servants. Staff within core Departments and the Marine and Fisheries Agency delivering functions that will transfer to the MMO are civil servants.

Staff transferring to the MMO would do so under the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice using TUPE principles and there would therefore be no detriment to pay or terms of employment at the point of transfer. Any future changes would only happen through proper consultation with the relevant trade unions.

The staff of the MMO will have the opportunity to work within an organisation making a significant contribution to the sustainable management of our seas—through the first marine planning system of its kind in the world, streamlined, modern and fit for purpose licensing regimes and effective, joined up enforcement. The Marine and Fisheries Agency is working to prepare itself as an organisation and its staff to form a solid foundation for the MMO.

When acting in the course of their duties for the MMO employees will be unlikely to face personal litigation, in the same way that civil servants are unlikely to. Decisions taken are on behalf of the MMO so any potential claim would lie against the MMO not an individual officer. Civil servants only enjoy immunity where Crown immunity applies in specific circumstances—they have no general immunity.

The draft Marine Bill does however give specific immunity to Marine Enforcement Officers appointed by the MMO and other enforcement officers. These officers need to be protected when they carry out inspections and investigations out at sea and on land to prevent their freedom to perform their duties being hampered by a fear of legal action being taken against them. The immunity applies so long as the enforcement officers are acting lawfully within their powers.

This mirrors the position for existing officers, for example, British Sea Fisheries Officers (BSFOs).

Noise: Pollution

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the National Noise Strategy for England; and if he will make a statement. [208874]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government plan to publish for consultation a combined National Noise Strategy for England, covering ambient and neighbourhood noise, later this year.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will support proposed EU legislation to ban crop protection products that are carcinogens, mutagens, reprotoxic, endocrine disrupters or bio-accumulating toxins. [212254]

Mr. Woolas: The Government agree that plant protection products should be properly controlled, and supports much of the proposed regulation, particularly where it would improve harmonisation and help level the playing field in pesticide availability. The Government are, however, concerned that these proposals for hazard 'cut-off' criteria could remove some active substances which are very important for agriculture and horticulture, but without securing any meaningful benefit in terms of consumer safety. We are pressing for changes to address these concerns.

Pigs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support his Department is providing to pig farmers and the pig industry; and what account he has taken of soya and grain prices in determining the level of such support. [211937]

Jonathan Shaw: The economic difficulties faced by pig producers in the last year have been driven by a number of factors, in particular the rising cost of feed ingredients. On feed, the UK has supported the Commission's measures aimed at reducing market pressure, including the suspension for a further year of import duties on feed grains, the re-selling of the remaining intervention stocks of grain and the removal of the requirement for farmers to set-aside land for the 2008 harvest.

DEFRA has been supportive of the pig industry and we worked together to reopen markets outside the EU following the FMD outbreak in 2007. DEFRA also provided, after that outbreak, a £12.5 million aid package to the livestock farming sector, including £2 million to promote the marketing of pork and other red meat.

However, the long-term sustainability of the pig sector will depend on its ability to compete successfully in the market place, with performance, quality and welfare standards as essential factors. The price for pig products is a matter for the market to decide, as long as competition law is being complied with.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with Scottish counterparts on assisting pig farmers with input costs; and if he will make a statement. [211938]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department is in regular contact with Scottish counterparts on issues affecting the pig and livestock issues, including UK support for Commission measures to ameliorate market pressures on the cost of feed.

Pitt Review

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the £34.5 million commitment to implement the recommendations of the Pitt Review on Flooding is in addition to or included in the cost of implementing the urgent recommendations of the Pitt Review; [211833]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of implementing each of the recommendations of the Pitt Review on Flooding; and if he will make a statement; [211896]

(3) how much his Department has spent to date on implementing the urgent recommendations of the Pitt Review on Flooding. [211897]

Mr. Woolas: The initial provision of £34.5 million has been set aside to fund work arising from the Pitt Review. This will not necessarily cover all the recommendations, and is subject to further review. We will determine how this should be spent when we see the final Pitt Report and the priorities which it contains.

None of the £34.5 million has so far been allocated. The costs spent to date on implementing the urgent recommendations have been absorbed by the bodies to which they fell so it is not possible to provide a precise figure.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210545]

Jonathan Shaw: Our current assessment is that the level of demand for the services provided by core DEFRA and its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to be provided in the Welsh language is falling slightly. This assessment is based on a comparison of the number of requests received by DEFRA's Translation Section to translate documents into Welsh in financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, set out in the following table:

	Number of requests received		
Financial year	*Core department*	*Agencies and NDPBs*	*Total*
2006-07	32	46	78
2007-08	22	38	60

World Environment Day

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department took to mark World Environment Day on 5 June 2008. [210729]

Mr. Woolas: World Environment Day 2008 focused on moving towards a low carbon economy, complementing DEFRA's Act On CO_2 campaign, which encourages behavioural change and increased understanding of the link between CO_2 emissions and climate change. The Act On CO_2 calculator helps people to work out and reduce their carbon footprint. To coincide with World Environment Day, DEFRA announced that the calculator received its one millionth unique visitor.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) attended the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg. Discussions focused on EU-wide emissions targets, the Carbon Trading scheme, and vehicle emissions targets.

To mark World Environment Day, I attended and spoke at the UK Final of Microsoft's Imagine Cup, a global award scheme for young British entrepreneurs who are engaging with climate change.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Waste (Joan Ruddock) attended the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Birmingham city council's joint climate change festival and gave a speech welcoming the launch of the city council's Climate Change Strategy. The Minister also visited one of the 38 schools in Birmingham that marked World Environment Day by showing first hand how teachers were integrating messages about climate change into the national curriculum.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the modifications which could be made to Land Rovers to give greater security to troops operating in Afghanistan and Iraq. [211425]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The protection available to the Land Rover fleet is under constant review. A number of improvements have been made to provide ballistic and blast protection and further programmes are under way to provide additional protection enhancements within the limits of the vehicle capability. I am withholding the details of these measures as release would or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel were placed on standby for deployment prior to the planned firefighters' strike in 2005; [211963]

(2) how many armed forces personnel were deployed in support of responses to the foot and mouth outbreaks in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2007. [211966]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the national fire fighters' strikes in 2002 and 2003 approximately 19,000 members of the armed forces, drawn from the Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force were deployed to provide fire cover at the request of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

In 2005, armed forces were deployed to provide fire cover at the request of ODPM during two industrial disputes. In Suffolk, 115 personnel were deployed and in the west midlands 451 personnel were deployed to provide fire cover.

Armed Forces: Disciplinary Proceedings

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many courts martial have taken place in each year since 2001. [211960]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of individuals who have been tried by court martial in each calendar year since 2001.

	Number
2001	810
2002	625
2003	610
2004	635

	Number
2005	800
2006	730
2007	760
2008[1]	320

[1] As at 31 May.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Armed Forces: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units of company strength or larger are based *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently in the county of Dorset. [212467]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following military units of company strength, and above, are based in Dorset:

Serial	*Unit*	*Location*
1	'A' Squadron Royal Wessex Yeomanry	Bovington
2	233 Transport Squadron, 155 Transport Regiment (V)	Poole
3	Defence College of Command and Information Systems	Blandford
4	Royal School of Signals	Blandford
5	11 Signal Regiment	Blandford
6	HQ Blandford Garrison	Blandford
7	HQ Signal Officer in Chief	Blandford
8	Defence Fuels Group and School of Petroleum	Wimbourne
9	HQ Bovington Garrison	Bovington
10	HQ Armoured Centre and Royal Armoured Corps Training Centre	Bovington
11	Gunnery School and HQ Lulworth Station	Wareham
12	Armoured Support Company (Royal Marines unit)	Bovington
13	1 Assault Group Royal Marines	Poole
14	Detachment Royal Marines Reserve	Poole

All the units listed are permanently based at the locations shown.

Armed Forces: Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of an interruption in fuel supply arising from industrial action on the armed forces; [211529]

(2) what contingency plans his Department has made for interruptions in supply of fuel arising from industrial action; what collaboration with other Government Departments his Department has undertaken in developing such plans; and whether such plans include further collaboration with other Departments. [211530]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials regularly undertake assessments of the Department's predicted fuel usage and assess the impact on Defence outputs of any shortages. In the event of extreme disruptions to the fuel supply, Defence activities would be considered alongside wider Government priorities and fuel supplies would be allocated accordingly.

Defence has a standing contingency plan to ensure that it is able to maintain its core outputs in the event of fuel disruption, regardless of its cause. Defence officials are in regular contact with officials in other Government Departments, in particular the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) who are the lead Government Department for these types of incidents. The contingency plans are currently being updated to reflect the latest version of the National Emergency Plan for Fuel which has been published by BERR.

The Cabinet Office's Civil Contingencies Secretariat co-ordinates the Government's approach to planning for and responding to all civil contingencies. As a central Government Department, the MOD routinely takes part in this work.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Congleton on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2553W, on armoured fighting vehicles, on which date his Department signed the contract to procure Ridgeback vehicles. [211991]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The vehicles are being supplied under a Foreign Military Sales case and the US Marine Corps Systems Command is responsible for the contract with Force Protection Industries Inc. The contract for the base vehicles was awarded on 19 May 2008.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Spare Parts

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage shortfall in availability of spare parts for each type of *(a)* armoured and *(b)* protected vehicle in the Army. [211961]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and (c) actual personnel medically fit for purpose strength for each battalion of the infantry is. [211957]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The figures requested are shown in the following table:

Division	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	580	491	429
	1 Coldstream Gds	627	563	505
	1 Scots Guards	760	595	485
	1 Irish Guards	636	570	481
	1 Welsh Guards	631	588	515
Scots	1 Scots	633	628	534
	2 Scots	566	449	405
	3 Scots	535	470	389
	4 Scots	760	642	562

Division	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
	5 Scots	654	560	514
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	760	658	625
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	616	578	481
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	753	649	613
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	623	530	469
	1 Royal Anglian	670	691	592
	2 Royal Anglian	627	629	582
Kings	1 Lancs	741	666	569
	2 Lancs	664	737	679
	1 Yorks	633	541	505
	2.YORKS	627	501	428
	3 Yorks	684	547	453
PoW	1 Mercian	627	513	436
	2 Mercian	620	555	510
	3 Mercian	690	564	467
	1 Royal Welsh	625	509	438
	2 Royal Welsh	756	647	543
Rifles	1 Rifles	633	627	572
	2 Rifles	615	584	507
	3 Rifles	625	602	563
	4 Rifles	702	684	566
	5 Rifles	760	700	613
RI	1 Royal Irish	654	516	453
Para	2 Para	654	646	589
	3 Para	654	607	574
RGR	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	643	759	681
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	822	913	839

In addition to the battalions shown in the previous table there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required:

Unit	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for purpose strength*
N Coy Grenadier Gds	108	111	99
7 Coy Coldstream Gds	108	105	95
F Coy Scots Guards	108	127	112

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. Fit for purpose has been interpreted as fit for primary role.

Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* in-service date is of the (i) Astute class submarine, (ii) Type-45 Destroyer and (iii) Nimrod MRA4. [210661]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimated costs for the current Astute contract are £3,798 million; for the current Type-45 contract £6,464 million; and for Nimrod MRA4 £3,500 million. The first of the Astute class, ASTUTE, has an in-service date of 2009, with AMBUSH following in 2010, and ARTFUL in 2012. The estimated in-service date for Type-45 is November 2010, and for Nimrod MRA4 is 2010.

Defence: Inflation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rate of defence inflation was in each of the last five years; and what the forecast figures for the rate of defence inflation are in each of the next five years. [211498]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD does not produce estimates of defence inflation. Work is currently under way to explore whether it might be possible to develop a robust and reliable index of inflationary pressures in defence.

Departmental Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure on recruitment video filming was in each year since 2003; and where each such video was filmed. [210666]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The costs of armed forces recruitment video filming for each year since 2003-04 was:

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Naval Service	0.000	0.210	0.034	0.111	0.085
Army	0.034	1.001	2.839	2.444	2.246
RAF	0.594	0.897	0.190	1.186	0.472
Total	0.628	2.108	3.063	3.741	2.803

Location details, where available, broken down by service, are as follows:

	Naval Service		*Army*		*RAF*	
	Cost (£ million)	*Location*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Location*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Location*
2003-04	0.000	Not applicable	0.364	UK	0.594	RAF Cottesmore and RAF Halton
2004-05	0.020	UK RN/RM establishments	1.001	UK	0.897	South Africa and UK
	0.000	Internal production				

	Naval Service		Army		RAF	
	Cost (£ million)	*Location*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Location*	*Cost (£ million)*	*Location*
	0.062	UK RN/RM establishments				
	0.060	UK RN/RM establishments				
	0.068	UK RN/RM establishments				
2005-06	0.034	UK (for Admiralty Interview Board)	0.639	Wales	0.190	RAF Brize Norton and RAF Leuchars
			1.259	UK and Chile		
			0.941	Canada and Mount Everest		
2006-07	0.060	UK RN/RM establishments	1.025	Cyprus	1.186	RAF Cranwell and Afghanistan
	0.051	UK RN/RM establishments	0.045	London		
			0.251	UK		
			0.278	Various locations (UK and overseas)		
			0.693	Various locations (UK and overseas)		
			0.152	Various locations (UK and overseas)		
2007-08	0.000	Internal production	0.940	Salisbury	0.472	UK, Cyprus and RAF Honnington
	0.052	UK RN/RM establishments	0.347	Wales and Salisbury		
			0.642	UK		
	0.033	UK RN/RM establishments plus New York/Dubai/Sydney/Oslo	0.317	Afghanistan/Ghana/Sierra Leone/Iraq/Kosovo/Bosnia		

Information regarding MOD civilian recruitment video expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who set the targets in the Spring Performance Report; and what steps he plans to take as a result of PSA Target Two not being met. [212389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The targets in the Spring Performance Report were set by the Government as part of the 2004 Spending Review Public Service Agreement covering the period April 2005 to March 2008.

The MOD will continue to play an active role in the work of the new cross-government funds for conflict prevention work around the world: the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Stabilisation Aid Fund that were established in the recent comprehensive spending review settlement.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Merlin Mark 1 helicopters are *(a)* in and *(b)* not in service; and what the status is of those not in service. [211502]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For the purposes of this answer 'in service' has been taken to mean those helicopters in the Forward Fleet, available to the Front Line Commands for training and operations. 'Not in service' has been taken to mean those helicopters in the Depth Fleet, in depth maintenance/storage, trials and undergoing upgrades.

The number of Merlin Mk1 helicopters 'in service' as at 16 June 2008 is 23.

There are 19 Merlin Mk1 helicopters 'not in service', of which, 13 are in depth maintenance facility, four are trialling new equipment and two are undergoing upgrades.

Falkland Islands: Defence

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of defence of the Falkland Islands was in each of the last three years. [212425]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In each of the last three years the costs to the Chief of Joint Operations, who is responsible for maintaining UK forces in the Falkland Islands, are as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2005-06	143.3
2006-07	65.0
2007-08	67.8

The reason for the much lower figures in the last two financial years is that, as a consequence of a change in MOD accounting policy, the Chief of Joint Operations is no longer responsible for reporting fixed asset depreciation costs and the cost of capital on fixed assets.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of operating the Falklands airbridge was in each of the last three years. [212426]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract for the provision of the airbridge to the Falkland Islands is currently under review. I am therefore withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 1492W, on fuels, (1) what percentage of the £80 million was paid for from the Treasury Reserve; [204557]

(2) how much his Department spent on fuel in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08, broken down by type of fuel; [204558]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the cost of British military operations abroad of each US $1 increase in the price of oil. [210640]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are currently collating the necessary information. I will write to the hon. Member once this process is complete.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Polish, *(b)* Ukrainian, *(c)* Pakistani and *(d)* Sri Lankan national military personnel are undertaking active service with UK armed forces in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [211187]

Des Browne: There are no formed units from the nations listed in the question. It is possible that a very small number of exchange officers could be operating with UK forces, but this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts there were between British forces and anti-coalition militia in Iraq in each month since February 2008. [211247]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of recorded attacks on Coalition forces in Multi-National Division (South East) per month since February 2008 is as follows:

	Number of contacts
February 2008	34
March 2008	44
April 2008	28
May 2008	12

It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, separately to identify attacks exclusively against British forces.

These figures are inevitably an estimate of attack levels and are subject to refinement as information is processed and verified.

Jordan: Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with authorities in *(a)* Aqaba and *(b)* Crete on incidents involving accidents to British nuclear submarines and their subsequent actions in response to those accidents; what plans were put into effect following these incidents by those authorities; and what equipment the Government made available to those authorities to deal with the incidents. [212339]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the recent grounding of HMS Superb, UK Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials had discussions with the appropriate Jordanian and Greek authorities prior to HMS Superb's visits to Aqaba and Crete. Support was received in both ports to conduct damage assessments.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average age of the *(a)* C-130J and *(b)* C-130K will be in 2010. [211249]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Of the current RAF Hercules fleet that are expected to be in service in 2010 the average age will be: C-130J—11 years and C-130K—42 years as at January 2010.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which training exercises were cancelled in 2007-08; and what percentage of all exercises this represents. [211973]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the period 2007-08, 76 (10.5 per cent.) of the 722 training exercises scheduled in the Defence Exercise Programme were cancelled. The cancelled exercises are as follows:

	Name	*Start*	*End*
1	Batus Run 07-1	20 August 2007	8 September 2007
2	Bright Star 07/08	1 November 2007	14 November 2007
3	Coop Archer 07	11 June 2007	22 June 2007
4	Dapex 07	19 November 2007	23 November 2007
5	Dragons Nest 07	21 May 2007	27 May 2007
6	Ecadex 07	2 July 2007	10 July 2007
7	Fac(A) Trg 07	1 June 2007	14 June 2007
8	Frairex-1 07	21 May07	30 May 2007
9	Fwit 07	2 June 2007	15 June 2007
10	Green Flag West 08-4	20 February 2008	7 March 2008
11	Harding Flame 07-1	29 June 2007	13 July 2007
12	Harding Flame 07-2	17 September 2007	28 September 2007
13	Joint Venture 07/08	1 May 2007	31 May 2007
14	Jrtc 07-1	9 September 2007	17 September 2007
15	Jtfex 07	15 July 2007	25 July 2007
16	Lone Victor 07	3 August 2007	10 August 2007
17	Maple Flag 40-1	13 May 2007	25 May 2007
18	Maple Flag 40-3	11 June 2007	22 June 2007
19	Patriot 07	9 July 2007	22 July 2007
20	Red Flag 08-2.1	13 January 2008	26 January 2008
21	Red Flag 08-2.2	2 February 2008	15 February 2008

	Name	*Start*	*End*
22	Snow Falcon 08	10 January 2008	25 January 2008
23	Spontex 08-1	12 March 2008	23 March 2008
24	Templar Forge 07-3	13 July 2007	30 July 2007
25	Tlp 07-4	6 August 2007	31 August 2007
26	Trident Fury 07	7 May 2007	18 May 2007
27	Uhlan Barbara 07	1 October 2007	7 October 2007
28	Virtual Flag 07-3	7 May 2007	18 May 2007
29	Volcanex 07	13 June 2007	22 June 2007
30	Wycombe Warrior 06-07 day 1	19 June 2007	21 June 2007
31	Coop Mako 07	1 September 2007	14 September 2007
32	Lemon Sole 1/07	16 April 2007	20 Apr 2007
33	Able Ally 07/08	1 November 2007	30 November 2007
34	Bald Eagle 07/08	1 April 2007	14 Apr 2007
35	Bass Rock 07/08	1 May 2007	15 May 2007
36	Britannia Way/Iberian Focus 07/08	1 April 2007	14 Apr 2007
37	Cobb Ring 07/08	14 October 2007	29 October 2007
38	Cossack Steppe (Cac 5-07/08)	1 April 2007	1 July 2007
39	Druids Dance 7-07/08	26 November 2007	16 December 2007
40	Druids Dance 9-07/08	18 February 2008	9 March 2008
41	Fingals Cave 07/08	1 May 2007	1 October 2007
42	Flying Rose 2-07/08	1 July 2007	31 July 2007
43	Global Kukri 07/08	19 November 2007	30 November 2007
44	Grand Prix 1-08/09	10 March 2008	26 Apr 2008
45	Grand Prix 2-07/08	26 October 2007	16 December 2007
46	Grand Prix 3-07/08	28 January 2008	20 March 2008
47	Lion Star 1-07/08	1 April 2007	14 Apr 2008
48	Lion Star 2-07/08	7 May 2007	21 May 2007
49	Lion Star 3-07/08	19 May 2007	2 June 2007
50	Lion Star 4-07/08	2 June 2007	16 June 2007
51	Lion Sun 1-07/08	18 April 2007	16 May 2007
52	Lion Sun 10-07/08	12 September 2007	10 October 2007
53	Lion Sun 11-07/08	19 September 2007	17 October 2007
54	Lion Sun 12-07/08	1 January 2008	29 February 2008
55	Lion Sun 13-07/08	1 January 2008	29 February 2008
56	Lion Sun 14-07/08	1 February 2008	31 March 2008
57	Lion Sun 2-07/08	25 April 2007	23 May 2007
58	Lion Sun 3-07/08	30 May 2007	27 June 2007
59	Lion Sun 4-07/08	20 June 2007	18 July 2007
60	Lion Sun 5-07/08	27 Jun 2007	25 July 2007
61	Lion Sun 6- 07/08	18 July 2007	15 August 2007
62	Lion Sun 7-07/08	25 July 2007	8 August 2007
63	Lion Sun 8-07/08	15 August 2007	12 September 2007
64	Lion Sun 9-07/08	22 August 2007	19 September 2007
65	Readiness Challenge 06/07	1 March 2007	1 Apr 2007
66	Romanian Express (Cac 7-07/08)	1 May 2007	1 October 2007
67	Cme/Cmx 07	11 September 2007	21 September 2007
68	Steadfast Nerve 07	2 May 2007	11 May 2007
69	1 Acc Wti 07	1 September 2007	23 September 2007
70	Bold Avenger 07	3 September 2007	14 September 2007
71	Jagged Flame 07-1	13 August 2007	26 August 2007
72	Lone Fin 08	5 March 2008	16 March 2008
73	Lone Frame 07	15 October 2007	28 October 2007
74	Maxeval 07	11 April 2007	13 May 2007
75	Opeval 07	5 September 2007	6 October 2007
76	Cyprus Forum 06	1 February 2007	30 Apr 2007

Redcliffe Bay Oil Storage Depot: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 180W, on fuels, how many incidents of security breaches at the Redcliffe Bay oil storage depot site near Portishead have been reported in the last five years; and on what date each such breach was identified. [211488]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the period 1 June 2003 to 1 June 2008, two security breaches have been reported on 15 July 2005 and 15 April 2008 respectively.

Reserve Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* target and *(b)* actual recruitment to the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Marines Reserves, (iii) Royal Navy Reserve and (iv) Royal Air Force Reserves was in each year since 1997. [210694]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows intake to the Territorial Army. Calendar year 2004 is the earliest year for which reliable TA intake data are available. Recruitment targets are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Intake[1] against target for the Territorial Army[2]

	Intake	*Target[3]*
Calendar year		
2004	7,690	—
2005	8,650	—
2006	8,560	—
January to February 2007[4]	1,020	—

[1] Intake figures include all intake e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.

[2] The data exclude Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) and Mobilised TA but includes the Officer Training Corps (OTC).

[3] Territorial Army targets were the responsibility of individual units and not held centrally until 2007.

[4] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, there is no TA intake information available since 1 March 2007. As such the figure for 2007 represents the period 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2007.

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Source:

DASA (Army)

The following table shows intake to the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve against target intake.

Intake against target for the Royal Naval Reserve[1] and Royal Marine Reserve[2]

	Royal Naval Reserve		*Royal Marine Reserve*	
	Intake	*Target*	*Intake*	*Target*
2001-02	680	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	550	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	280	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004-05	200	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	270	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	170	450	140	250
2007-08	160	580	240	500

n/a = Not available

[1] Royal Naval Reserve intake data are not held centrally prior to April 2001. Recruitment targets are not held centrally prior to April 2006.

[2] Royal Marine Reserve data are not held centrally prior to April 2006

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Source:

Fleet DNPERS

The following table shows intake to the Royal Auxiliary Air Force against target intake.

Intake[1] against target for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force

Financial year	*Intake*	*Target*
2003-04	260	500
2004-05	260	500
2005-06	240	500
2006-07	320	500
2007-08	330	480

[1] Royal Auxiliary Air Force intake data are not held centrally and consequently recruitment data against targets are not available prior to April 2003 without incurring disproportionate cost.

Note:

Data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Source:

Air Personnel

Type 45 Destroyers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest date is by which a seventh Type 45 destroyer would have to be ordered to avoid an interruption in production. [206627]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 May 2008]:* Following the Department's 2008 planning round, we no longer intend to take up the option to place orders for further Type 45 warships beyond the six already on contract. Instead, we plan to bring forward the timetable for the introduction of the Future Surface Combatant which is intended to provide replacements for the Type 22 and Type 23 frigates. This, together with the Carrier and Astute programmes, will balance the volume of construction workload across maritime programmes to ensure retention of key capabilities and viability of the business that delivers them.

Type 45 Destroyers: Deployment

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Type 45 destroyers will be able to be deployed simultaneously if the total built is *(a)* six, *(b)* seven and *(c)* eight; and if he will make a statement. [206329]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 20 May 2008]:* For a fleet of six Type 45 destroyers we would expect that one ship would usually be in deep maintenance, leaving up to five available for deployment at various states of readiness. Following the Department's 2008 planning round, we no longer intend to take up the option to place orders for further Type 45 warships.

Warships: Guided Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which ships he plans to remove Sea Dart missiles in the next 12 months. [211394]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer question 206627 on 14 May 2008, on Type 45 destroyer production. [210751]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 13 June 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Elections

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the progress of the caretaker government towards holding free and fair elections in Bangladesh. [211950]

Meg Munn: We welcomed the announcement by the Chief Adviser last month that elections will take place in the third week of December. It is vital that those elections are free and fair. We call on all sides now to show a spirit of co-operation and a commitment to ensure that the elections take place on time and with full participation.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information technology projects are being undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; what the (i) start date, (ii) original planned completion date, (iii) expected completed date, (iv) originally planned costs and (v) estimated costs are of each; and if he will make a statement. [209689]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is running a wide range of information technology-enabled projects. Some are managed centrally while others are initiated and managed by the holders of devolved budgets, both in the UK or at posts overseas. For those centrally managed projects, and groups of projects marshalled together as programmes around a significant business change, the requested details are shown in the following table:

Current information technology projects (over £2 million) FCO	*Start date*	*Originally planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£ million)*	*Estimated costs (£ million)*
Future Firecrest (Applications, Infrastructure and Migration)[1]	February 2005	February 2012	February 2012	332.0	358.0
Electronic Document and Records Management (eRecords/iRecords)[2]	September 2004	March 2010	August 2008	26.5	5.1
FCO Web Platform[1]	July 2005	November 2008	November 2008	13.5	9.7

Current information technology projects (over £2 million) FCO	*Start date*	*Originally planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£ million)*	*Estimated costs (£ million)*
FCO Telecommunications Network(FTN) Private Finance Initiative Implementation and service 2000 to 2010[4]	May 2000	May 2010	May 2010	180.0	240.0
Ocean (Telecommunications reprocurement)[5]	October 2007	May 2010	May 2010	n/a	n/a
Prism Simplification[6]	February 2008	January 2009	January 2009	6.59	6.59
Agencies (FCO Services, Wilton Park)					
None					

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[1] The cost of Future Firecrest has been increased by the obligation to implement Central Government security policies instituted after the Future Firecrest contract had been agreed. Savings elsewhere in the programme, of which this forms a part, mean that there is no overall cost increase to the FCO and the programme remains within the budget approved in the business case.

[2] The scope of iRecords has been reduced in the light of financial constraints.

[3] The scope and hence costs were reduced on examination of the full business case.

[4] FTN is a service, chargeable by usage. The additional cost reflects a demand that has increased significantly since the original estimates of traffic volumes were drawn up in 2000. Unit costs have been reduced, but this is obscured in the headline figure.

[5] Ocean is led by the FCO; the scope includes the re-procurement of the FTN, but also the cross-Government Managed Telephony Service and the Government Secure Intranet. The programme is still being scoped, and hence is in the process of developing a full project cost.

[6] Implementation of the Prism system was completed in May 2006, two months later than originally planned, and the implementation programme was closed at the end of March 2007 following the recommendation of an Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review. This new project is concerned with developing a simplified structure, enabling reduced support costs and simpler business processes. Costs have yet to be formally approved.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* consultancy, *(b)* design and development and *(c)* other costs of redesigning his Department's website were. [211890]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The breakdown of costs involved in setting up the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's new departmental website was given in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written response of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1772-73W.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when each of his Department's and its agencies' green transport plans were introduced; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such plan. [209416]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had a Green Travel Procedure for commuting and business travel since March 2006. A copy of the Green Travel Procedure will be placed in the Library of the House.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Iranian authorities on the recent arrests of Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Neimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, members of the Iranian Baha'i community, on 14 May; and if he will make a statement. [212086]

Meg Munn: The Government are deeply concerned by the arrests of the informal Baha'i leadership in Tehran on 14 May and the ongoing persecution of the Iranian Baha'i community. On receiving reports of these arrests, and following a recommendation by the UK, the EU issued a public declaration on 21 May which reiterated the EU's serious concern about the harassment of Iranian Baha'is on the grounds of their religion and called on Iran to

> "uphold fully the right to adopt and practise a religion of choice, to end the persecution of the Baha'i community, and to release the detained individuals".

We will continue to raise this issue with the Iranian authorities and have recommended that the EU presidency should do so again in its next meeting with the Iranian authorities in Tehran.

We regularly raise our concerns about human rights, including the treatment of Baha'is in Iran, in our bilateral contacts with the Iranian authorities and through the EU. We raise human rights with the Government of Iran through the EU in order to emphasise that our concerns are shared across a range of countries

Malawi: Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the requirements of article 2(1)(a) of the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991 *(a)* have been or *(b)* will be made the subject of an exception under Schedule 2 of the Order in the case of the appointment of the right hon. Jack McConnell MSP as the next High Commissioner to Malawi. [212440]

Meg Munn: Mr. McConnell's appointment will be made under the terms of Article 2(2) and Schedule 2(2) of the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991, which expressly allow exceptions to the normal method of appointment.

Papua: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters relating to West Papua he plans to discuss with the President of Indonesia during his forthcoming visit to Jakarta; and if he will make a statement. [212390]

Meg Munn: Unfortunately, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had to postpone his proposed visit to Indonesia.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Irish Government and *(b)* other EU member state governments on whether the Irish Republic may be given special dispensation not to sign the Lisbon treaty. [212259]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement to the House on 16 June on the result of the referendum in Ireland on the Lisbon treaty. The statement followed discussions with his counterparts at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg on the same day.

There will be a meeting of the European Council from 19 to 20 June.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1425W, on council tax: valuation; what data sources are used to value newly built homes for council tax purposes. [211655]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the then Minister for Local Government the hon. Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have commissioned on council tax revaluation in the last 12 months from (i) within his Department and its agencies and (ii) external bodies. [211923]

Jane Kennedy: No such research has been commissioned.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* staff at senior civil service level in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many payments were made. [207474]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Department	*Total bonuses (£000)*	*Of which senior civil service (£000)*	*Number of payments*
HM Treasury	1,049	551	459
DMO	190	11	69
OGC	268	155	176
OGC.bs	430	39	279
Royal Mint	5	0	3
HMRC	19,056	2,213	55,951
VOA	275	49	479
NS and I	376	126	125
GAD	37	0	98

Financial Services and Markets Act 1999: Human Rights

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Law Officers' advice on the compatibility of the Financial Services and Markets Act 1999 with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998. [211943]

Kitty Ussher: There is a long-standing convention, followed by successive Governments, that the Government do not disclose whether the Law Officers have been consulted nor does it disclose the content of Law Officers' advice.

Gateway Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government projects received *(a)* a red and *(b)* an amber/red rating in Gateway reviews in each of the last five years. [211787]

Angela Eagle: The Gateway status, for this period, consisted of red, amber and green—"amber/red" was not a Gateway rating. From January 2003 to the end of December 2007 the following number of projects received red or amber reports from Gateway reviews carried out by the OGC:

	Number of projects with red reviews	*Number of projects with amber reviews*
2003	64	107
2004	82	132
2005	93	166
2006	96	152
2007	66	146

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property. [211930]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury, the Debt Management Office and the Office of Government Commerce have no departmental residential properties.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 913W, on housing: valuation, what process was used to calculate the geographical dimensions of each locality. [211667]

Jane Kennedy: Geographical dimensions of localities were and are not calculated. I refer the Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1600-01W.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many home repossessions there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [210274]

Kitty Ussher: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics.

National Insurance Contributions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what circumstances Class 1 national insurance contributions that have not been paid are treated as having been paid for the purposes of calculating entitlement to additional state pension. [212311]

Jane Kennedy: Social Security legislation prescribes that unpaid primary Class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) are treated as paid, for the purpose of entitlement to contributory benefits only (including additional state pension), where it is established that

the primary Class 1 NICs should have been paid by a secondary contributor (usually the employer); and

the failure to pay was not with the consent of the employee or due to any negligence on the part of the employee.

National Land and Property Gazetteer

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dwellings in England have a National Land and Property Gazetteer-derived Unique Property Reference Number according to the Valuation Office Agency records. [211921]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister for Local Government to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1686W.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy on public sector pay increases in the 2008 round is; what the maximum permissible increase is; and if he will make a statement. [210361]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy is that public sector pay settlements should reflect the individual labour market position of work forces, be consistent with achievement of the Government's CPI inflation target of 2 per cent., be affordable and represent value for money for taxpayers.

Tax Collection: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what training staff of HM Revenue and Customs are given in applying the Taxpayer's Charter; [212428]

(2) when the Taxpayer's Charter was last reviewed. [212429]

Jane Kennedy: In the past, both Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise arranged separate training for their staff. The Chancellor announced in the last Budget that HMRC will work with interested parties to develop a new taxpayers' charter. This new charter will articulate to staff what is expected of them, helping to reinforce new customer focused working practices. HMRC are currently identifying the training needs necessary to achieve essential culture change.

The final consultation document on the scope of the charter was published today and is available on the HMRC website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageLibrary_ConsultationDocuments&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_028675

Taxation: Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W, on official residences: income tax, what the policy of HM Revenue and Customs is on the income tax liability on the benefit in kind of providing a free ministerial residence to a person who is not a Minister of the Crown; and whether guidance has been issued on this matter. [211669]

Jane Kennedy: The tax rules which apply when someone is provided with accommodation because of his or her office or employment are the same for persons occupying free ministerial residences as for other accommodation. HM Revenue and Customs has not issued any guidance on the tax liability of the use of official ministerial residences.

Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 828W, on the Valuation Office, if he will outline how the models differ from each other within the Automated Valuation Model. [211830]

Jane Kennedy: The models adopted by the Valuation Office Agency differ from each other in the variables used, the coefficients calibrated and the time at which the models are calibrated.

Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, whether the initial contract between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove has now ended; and whether a decision to extend the contract has been made by the Valuation Office Agency; [211831]

(2) what the status of the contract between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove.co.uk plc is. [211932]

Jane Kennedy: No contract exists between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove. The contract in question is between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk Ltd.

While no further payments are required, the benefits of access to Rightmove's historic records by the Valuation Office Agency, as provided for in the initial contract, remain in place. No decision has been made on extending the contract.

Valuation Office: Freedom of Information

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Valuation Office Agency will provide a substantive response to Freedom of Information Act request 11335561.1/CEO. [211920]

Jane Kennedy: A substantive response will be provided shortly.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on Valuation Office Agency: ICT, what sources will be used to supply the geo-spatial data for the Geographic Information System; and whether this will include *(a)* ACORN and *(b)* MOSAIC data. [211665]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 21 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1688W-1689W.

Valuation Office: ICT

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* ongoing annual revenue cost of the Valuation Office Agency's TENET mapping software was. [211918]

Jane Kennedy: The cost to the Valuation Office Agency of the TENET mapping software (excluding VAT) amounts to:

(a) £706,668, for the set up and licences (costs incurred between 1999-2000 and 2005-06); and

(b) £87,250 for ongoing maintenance in 2008-09.

Valuation Office: Identity Cards

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many departmental identity cards have been reported lost or stolen in the last 24 months by staff in the Valuation Office Agency. [211644]

Jane Kennedy: In the last 24 months five VOA identity cards were reported either lost or stolen.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been allocated by the Valuation Office Agency for payments to Rightmove.co.uk plc in 2008-09. [211933]

Jane Kennedy: No payments have been specifically allocated by the Valuation Office Agency to this company.

Welfare Tax Credits: Correspondence

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many annual tax credit documentation letters were sent in duplicate to both members of the same household in the latest period for which figures are available. [212273]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issue one annual renewal pack per household if a reply is required.

For cases where a reply is not required then one form is sent to each adult claimant in a household playing back the information that HMRC proposes to use to finalise and renew their claim. These are then automatically renewed using these details unless the customer provides updated information by the renewals deadline.

In 2007, HMRC issued renewal packs for around 4.1 million 'reply required' claims plus notices for around 2.4 million claims for claims they proposed to renew automatically. It is not possible to say how many of those were issued to joint claimant households. Tax credits notices contain all the information used to calculate an award and it is a requirement of the primary legislation that when HMRC make a decision about tax credit entitlement, they send a notice setting out the decision to each of the partners in a joint claim.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from the Royal Society in respect of the role of carbon capture and storage in combating climate change. [211947]

Malcolm Wicks: I receive many representations from a wide range of organisations, including recently the Royal Society, in respect of the role of carbon capture and storage in combating climate change.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from residents of Southend-on-Sea on the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth; what response he has made; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation; and if he will make a statement. [210657]

Malcolm Wicks: This information is not available. The Department has not categorised any of the representations received by geographical location.

Energy Supply

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* power generation companies, *(b)* gas distribution companies and *(c)* Energy Watch on the cost of energy supplies to domestic consumers. [208284]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with companies in the energy sector and interest groups where domestic energy prices are discussed.

Energy: Prices

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in *(a)* Wakefield District and *(b)* Hemsworth constituency are eligible for social tariffs from energy suppliers. [210730]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is not available. Energy suppliers voluntarily provide a range of assistance to households vulnerable to fuel poverty, including social tariffs. In April the Government secured the individual agreement of the six largest energy suppliers to increase their collective spend on social assistance to £150 million a year by 2010-11. This will be spent on a number of initiatives including social tariffs, rebates and trust funds.

Nuclear Power Stations: Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the resilience of nuclear power stations to flooding. [211427]

Malcolm Wicks: UK nuclear power stations are designed to be protected against flooding, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requires flood defence plans to be periodically reviewed by site operators. HSE would also require appropriate flood protection measures and flood defence plans for any new nuclear power station in the future.

The potential impact of flooding would be a relevant consideration in any future siting assessment for any proposed new nuclear build, alongside a range of other considerations. We will be consulting on draft criteria for the Strategic Siting Assessment shortly.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of *(a)* post offices within supermarkets and *(b)* stand-alone post offices in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex will be closed under the Post Office Network Change Programme; and if he will make a statement. [210658]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what annual cash savings the Post Office expects from the closure of post office branches at *(a)* 42 Vicarage Road, Maidenhead, *(b)* 55 High Street, Wargrave, near Reading and *(c)* 49 Wootton Way, Maidenhead. [211063]

(2) what annual cash savings the Post Office expects from the closure of the post office branch at Knowl Hill Stores, Knowl Hill, near Reading. [211064]

(3) what annual cash savings the Post Office expects from the closure of the post office branch at 128-130 Cookham Road, Maidenhead. [211065]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the right hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Post Offices: Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps he has taken to encourage co-operation between post offices and credit unions. [209839]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 June 2008]:* This is a commercial and operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL) and the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd. (ABCUL) who, I understand, maintain a regular dialogue to explore the opportunities for working together. I also understand that ABCUL use the Co-operative Bank as a channel for credit union current accounts and that the bank's contract with POL enables current account customers of credit unions using this Co-operative Bank service to pay in or withdraw cash and make balance inquiries at post offices.

Post Offices: Standards

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what monitoring of waiting times at post office branches *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Postcomm performs; what methodology is used; and if he will make a statement. [207344]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not carry out any monitoring exercises for waiting times at Post Office branches. Postcomm, the industry regulator, has a limited role in relation to the Post Office network. It monitors the impact of strategic developments in the network, and provides advice to the Secretary of State in the form of an annual report. It is not currently carrying out any research in this area.

Post Office Ltd. monitors waiting times at branches through its mystery shopper visits. A sample of 1,000 branches are visited on a monthly basis by a mystery shopper and marked against a range of factors, including waiting times. This is to ensure that customer service is being maintained and where branches are identified as falling below standard, this is raised with the sub-postmaster or branch manager.

Private Sector: Renewable Energy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage private businesses to use energy from renewable sources. [210392]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation with all eligible renewable electricity generation installations able to receive Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). We have announced that under proposed reforms to the RO, microgenerators will be able to claim two ROCs for every one MWh of renewable electricity generated. The Government intend to introduce these changes from 1 April 2009, thus doubling the support they receive through the RO to the highest level available.

Under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP), with an £86 million budget, around £30 million has been allocated to 6,300 projects, including £6.5 million to 154 projects in the private sector. Although all funding streams for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have now closed to new applicants, we are working closely with the Carbon Trust on a number of private sector projects to raise awareness of the potential for combining microgeneration with energy efficiency to develop low carbon buildings. Further details are available at:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Advice is available from a number of sources, including the Carbon Trust who provides site surveys to organisations, including SMEs, looking to reduce their energy demand, save money and manage their carbon emissions more efficiently. Further details are available at:

www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions/sme_toolkit.htm

Further assistance is available through Business Link at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

and regional development agencies at:

www.englandsrdas.com.

The Renewable Energy Strategy consultation due in the summer will include considerations of the role that microgeneration and distributed energy will play going forward. This will consider a range of possible initiatives such as financial or regulatory instruments, voluntary guidance and providing better information to business and consumers.

Small Businesses: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from which regulatory requirements he proposes to exempt those companies with 20 or fewer employees; and if he will make a statement. [204083]

Mr. McFadden: When we published the Enterprise Strategy next to the Budget in March 2008, we announced that the Government will introduce a new approach to help ensure that regulation affecting small firms achieves the outcomes aimed for while minimising unnecessary impacts. This flexible approach includes considering whether small firms can be exempt from requirements without affecting essential protections or if there is scope for simplified enforcement. This will be applied to new regulation currently under development.

Work already under way to change existing requirements was published in the Enterprise Strategy, a copy of which was placed in the libraries of the House.

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants were made by his Department to Westminster City Council in each year since 2000; and for how much in each case. [210010]

Mr. Thomas: The former Department of Trade and Industry made a grant of £3,363.75 to Westminster city council in July 2007, under Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Saville inquiry is due to report; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the inquiry. [209230]

Mr. Woodward: Lord Saville recently confirmed that the tribunal hopes to submit its report to me by the end of this year or shortly thereafter. I am advised that the cost of the Bloody Sunday inquiry is £183 million as at end April 2008. Based on estimates by the inquiry and the Ministry of Defence, the total cost is expected to be £188 million.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* salary and *(b)* travel and subsistence monies were paid to staff in his Department in each of the last 10 years, broken down by grade. [207746]

Mr. Woodward: The Department's financial system can report only on total salaries and corresponding travel and subsistence paid to staff back to 2002-03 (agencies and executive NDPBs are excluded). Details are shown in the following table.

£

	Salaries	*Travel and subsistence*
2002-03	22,742,636	3,815,724
2003-04	24,834,735	3,754,864
2004-05	26,079,458	3,754,935
2005-06	21,505,996	3,826,540

£

	Salaries	Travel and subsistence
2006-07	20,812,203	3,822,570
2007-08	20,575,081	3,381,199

Driving Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted for *(a)* motoring offences that resulted in a fatality and *(b)* careless driving in each of the last three years. [211356]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of convictions for motoring offences causing death, while table 2 gives convictions for careless driving.

Data cover the calendar years 2004-06 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of convictions for motoring offences causing death 2004-06

	Convictions
2004	11
2005	9
2006	13

Table 2: Number of convictions for careless driving 2004-06[1,2]

	Convictions
2004	1,738
2005	1,597
2006	1,458

[1] Data do not include careless driving offences causing death.

[2] Data do not include reckless driving, furious driving or dangerous driving.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 132W, on the Fairtrade initiative, what Fairtrade products are *(a)* available for purchase at his Department's staff catering facilities and *(b)* offered at official departmental meetings and engagements. [209022]

Mr. Woodward: There are no mandatory policy requirements in place for the procurement of Fairtrade products by central Government Departments. However the Government are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Each Government Department is responsible for making its own decisions on such products, against the background of the Government's value for money policy, the EC procurement rules and the Department's objectives.

My Department operates only one small staff catering facility; no Fairtrade products are currently sold there.

We have used Fairtrade tea, coffee, and fruit at official engagements. When supply contracts are renewed we are looking to extend the range of goods available.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 132W, on the Fairtrade initiative, in which departmental buildings *(a)* Fairtrade products are provided at official meetings and functions and *(b)* Fairtrade products are not made available for official meetings and functions. [209023]

Mr. Woodward: My Department is responsible for catering at Stormont House and Hillsborough Castle; Fairtrade products are available at both locations.

Offensive Weapons

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people under the age of 18 years were the victim of knife crime in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [210726]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the number of recorded violent crimes where a knife was used for victims under the age of 18 years for 2003-04 to 2007-08.

A number of initiatives have been introduced since the last amnesty and are now in operation across Northern Ireland to reduce the level of knife crime. PSNI have rolled out the use of metal detectors and also introduced a stop and search policy. New legislation has been introduced to make it more difficult to obtain knives by raising the minimum age limit for purchase to 18. Last month, it became illegal in Northern Ireland to manufacture, sell, hire or import samurai swords. The recent Criminal Justice (NI) Order contains powers which double the penalties for possessing a knife in public and also for selling/manufacturing/marketing knives to under 18's.

Knife disposal bins have been retained on site at civic amnesty locations and PSNI education officers continue to raise awareness in schools on a number of key issues, including the dangers of carrying a knife.

Number of violent crimes where a knife was involved in the incident and where the victim was under 18 2003-04 to 2007-08[1,2,3]

	Number
2003-04	104
2004-05	65
2005-06	97
2006-07	84
2007-08	101

[1] Data are provisional and may be subject to revision.

[2] The figures relate to offences where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.

[3] Figures have been provided only in relation to violent crime. Analysis of crime by age of victim is routinely carried out for violent crime offences (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery) and also for domestic burglary offences. Analysis by age of victim for other crime types is not carried out, as the number of records where the victim age is not available is too high to allow analysis to be meaningful. A small proportion of data are missing for each of the listed years.

Source:

Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes involving a knife took place in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [210741]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the number of recorded crimes involving a knife broken down by district council area for 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Number of offences where a knife was involved in the incident by district council area 2003-04 to 2007-08[1,2]

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Antrim	23	35	31	16	35
Ards	23	22	39	24	41
Armagh	14	10	17	13	20
Banbridge	9	13	8	8	14
Belfast	355	354	435	373	303
Ballymena	42	43	43	41	47
Ballymoney	8	10	5	8	2
Carrickfergus	16	20	13	8	34
Coleraine	50	48	56	38	46
Cookstown	3	4	2	4	9
Craigavon	52	55	61	48	90
Castlereagh	22	9	27	20	11
Dungannon and South Tyrone	8	20	10	3	18
Down	32	29	27	30	18
Fermanagh	11	14	22	15	23
Foyle	54	67	68	63	70
Larne	21	17	14	16	17
Limavady	14	17	22	12	45
Lisburn	27	28	29	23	53
Magherafelt	4	0	1	4	9
Moyle	8	10	5	3	2
Newtownabbey	63	60	67	55	88
North Down	40	54	43	50	20
Newry and Mourne	49	47	58	63	21
Omagh	30	7	19	21	11
Strabane	7	8	8	9	15
Northern Ireland	985	1,001	1,130	968	1,062

[1] Data are provisional and may be subject to revision.

[2] The figures relate to offences where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNT

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been in connection with knife-related crimes in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [210830]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested. Court prosecution and conviction datasets do not contain background information in relation to the commission of an offence so it is not possible to separately identify the number of prosecutions and convictions for offences such as murder in which a knife was involved. It is only possible to provide prosecution and conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to an 'offensive weapon' (of which knives will be one sub-category) or 'article with blade or point'.

These are:

Armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence.

Possessing offensive weapon in public place.

Possessing article with blade or point in public place.

Possessing instrument with intent to commit an offence.

Possessing article with blade or point on school premises.

Possessing offensive weapon on school premises.

Prosecution and conviction data documented in the following table cover the calendar years 2002-06 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Prosecutions and convictions for offensive weapons 2002-06

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
2002	198	161
2003	236	179
2004	211	181
2005	264	209
2006	317	242

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many victims of knife crime in Northern Ireland there were in each of the last five years. [210831]

Paul Goggins: The data are not available in the format requested. The following table outlines the number of assaults where a knife was involved between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Number of assaults recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2003-04 to 2007-08[1, 2, 3]

	Assaults where knife involved
2003-04	292
2004-05	272
2005-06	320
2006-07	260
2007-08	423

[1] Data are provisional and may be subject to revision.

[2] The figures relate to offences where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.

[3] The assault figures include offences of wounding with intent, GBH with intent, wounding, GBH, AOABH, aggravated assault, common assault and assault on police. The data include offences where no injury was sustained.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212115]

Mr. Woodward: None. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister for the Olympics, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) on 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 5W.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were recruited to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* district council area. [208232]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following information:

(a) Response by constituency

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	C5	*C6*	*C7*	*C8*	*C9*	*C10*	*C11*	*C12*	*CIS*	*Total*
Belfast East	18	18	12	12	19	9	14	10	4	116
Belfast North	6	7	5	3	5	8	4	9	5	52
Belfast South	21	19	21	7	13	25	4	12	2	124
Belfast West	4	4	5	4	3	3	0	4	1	28
East Antrim	19	21	30	10	12	12	9	9	6	128
East Londonderry	30	26	11	10	13	14	7	7	8	126
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	11	6	5	6	6	7	2	5	3	51
Foyle	16	11	9	12	6	6	6	9	8	83
Lagan Valley	32	16	26	18	27	16	15	22	8	180
Mid Ulster	2	2	4	4	1	3	3	1	0	20
Newry and Armagh	8	6	6	4	3	1	5	5	2	40
North Antrim	14	15	7	4	8	12	5	7	6	78
North Down	26	34	22	17	22	21	21	16	6	185
South Antrim	26	22	26	11	18	19	16	19	13	170
South Down	6	14	12	8	8	9	9	11	4	81
Strangford	24	29	27	15	18	15	12	20	8	168
Upper Bann	22	19	14	9	15	17	11	10	11	128
West Tyrone	6	5	8	5	4	2	0	3	2	35
Total	291	274	250	159	201	199	143	179	97	1793

(b) Response by district council

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	C5	*C6*	*C7*	*C8*	*C9*	*C10*	*C11*	*C12*	*C13*	*Total*
Antrim	14	12	10	3	11	5	6	8	7	76
Ards	14	20	23	12	15	15	8	16	6	129
Armagh	6	6	4	4	1	1	3	3	0	28
Ballymena	10	13	6	2	4	8	3	5	5	56
Ballymoney	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	16
Banbridge	15	12	12	6	16	7	10	11	4	93
Belfast	38	36	34	19	28	34	18	27	11	245
Carrickfergus	11	8	17	3	5	5	5	5	3	62
Castlereagh	21	18	12	6	16	11	11	9	2	106
Coleraine	19	15	7	8	8	6	3	7	6	79
Cookstown	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	7
Craigavon	11	11	5	8	7	11	5	4	7	69
Derry	16	11	9	12	6	6	6	9	8	83
Down	6	12	11	10	7	12	8	10	3	79
Dungannon	2	3	0	2	2	4	1	1	1	16
Fermanagh	10	3	5	5	4	3	1	4	2	37
Larne	5	9	5	6	5	4	4	3	2	43
Limavady	11	11	4	2	5	8	4	0	2	47
Lisburn	28	14	24	14	20	16	12	20	8	156
Magherafelt	1	1	3	0	1	2	2	1	0	11
Moyle	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	6
Newry and Mourne	3	4	4	1	2	0	2	3	4	23
Newtownabbey	16	15	24	10	9	18	10	13	7	122
North Down	24	32	21	16	21	16	18	15	6	169
Omagh	5	3	7	4	4	1	0	3	2	29
Strabane	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Total	291	274	250	159	201	199	143	179	97	1793

This analysis is based on postcode information provided at time of application (correspondence address). Not all applicants provide a valid postcode.

Appointments are still ongoing from campaigns 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Part-Time Employment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many man hours of service were provided by part-time members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary between 1981 and 2001. [208328]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

> The Police Service does not retain the information requested for the periods concerned.

JUSTICE

Absent Voting

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on steps to ensure that each elector who has applied for a postal vote receives it. [212307]

Bridget Prentice: Responsibility for the conduct of elections, including the delivery of postal votes to electors, rests with the relevant returning officer. The Electoral Commission issues guidance to returning officers on the issue and distribution of postal votes. My Department has regular discussions with the Electoral Commission on a range of issues concerning the administration of elections, including the arrangements for processing postal votes. Whilst the issue that the hon. Member raises has not been discussed with the Electoral Commission recently, it will be included in future discussions with the Electoral Commission.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210995]

Mr. Wills: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice, the Department uses a number of different accounting systems and each of these employs its own chart of accounts. The main accounting systems currently in use are:

> the Home Office's Adelphi system, which hosts the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR);
>
> Her Majesty's Prison Service's Phoenix system; and
>
> the ex-Department for Constitutional Affair's ARAMIS system.

A copy of these three charts of accounts will be placed in the Library at the beginning of July.

The Department is taking steps to rationalise its accounting arrangements, with NOMS migrating from Adelphi to Phoenix and OCJR migrating from Adelphi to ARAMIS during the current financial year. Ultimately, the aim of the Department's Shared Service Programme will be to move to the use of a single accounting system.

The charts of accounts for 2008-09 therefore reflects the Department's structure as it currently is and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that of future years. The charts show the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211771]

Mr. Wills: My Department does not hold central records of the number and cost of chairs, desks and other office furniture purchased in the last five years, to retrieve such information would involve manual checks of local records at disproportionate time and cost.

Within National Offender Management Service (NOMS), it is our policy to make furniture in-house from raw materials sourced from a range of suppliers, rather than buy the furniture as finished products.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which pilot projects initiated by his Department since its creation have not proceeded to further roll-out. [211840]

Mr. Wills: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007 no pilot projects have been initiated which have not proceeded to roll out, they are either on-going or have been rolled out.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much sick pay to staff in his Department and its predecessor cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [211858]

Mr. Straw: It is estimated that the cost of sick pay within the public sector Prison Service during 2007 was £68 million. Estimated costs for other parts of the Department are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office published a report on sickness absence in the civil service on 7 February 2008. The report included an analysis of the days lost due to sickness absence. The report included an estimate of £887.66 for 2006-07 as the cost of absence per staff year in respect of all civil servants.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what subscriptions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has for (i) premium Sky, (ii) digital terrestrial and (iii) cable television channels; and what the annual cost of each was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [211130]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice receives its feed for satellite television from the Houses of Parliament and therefore does not pay for subscriptions.

The National Archives, the Boundary Commission for Wales, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Land Registry, the Boundary Commission for England, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Legal Services Commission and the Tribunals Service do not pay subscriptions for (i), (ii) and (iii).

HMCS headquarters does not pay a subscription for (i), (ii) and (iii), but does pay for satellite and cable services at some judges' lodgings at a total cost of £5,979.38 in 2007-08.

The National Offender Management Service headquarters does not pay a subscription for (i), (ii) and (iii). No prisoners in public sector prisons receive satellite or other television channels in their cells for which a subscription is payable. In-cell television is conditional on good behaviour.

20 public sector prisons have satellite television in association areas and pay a basic subscription for it. Information on the costs of such facilities is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.

Private sector prisons' contracts do not specify costs for such services as they form part of the overall operating cost which of course has been competitively tendered prior to agreement. The contractor is required to obtain best price and under the terms of our contracts providers are obliged to obtain commercially competitive rates throughout the duration of the contract.

High Court: Judges

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 607-08W, if he will make it his policy to make details of expenses claims by High Court judges available for inspection by the public. [212427]

Mr. Straw: In accordance with general principles, I have no plans to make available, for inspection by the public, details of expenses claims by High Court judges. As I explained in my earlier answer to the hon. Member, the expenses which may be claimed by High Court judges are governed by their terms and conditions and are subject to appropriate control procedures.

Legal Aid: Voluntary Organisations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the effects of fixed fees for legal aid on the funding of voluntary sector organisations providing legal advice. [211593]

Maria Eagle: Fixed fee schemes were calculated on the basis of historic spend by both solicitor firms and not for profit (NfP) agencies and no money has been removed from the overall civil legal aid budget.

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) undertook a full regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of the effect of the introduction of fixed fees. The final RIA is available on their website

https://consult.legalservices.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/sustainable.future/consultationHome.

Transitional arrangements have been introduced to assist NfP providers to adjust to recent reforms. The LSC regularly monitors the operation of these arrangements. The great majority of NfP providers are adapting well to fixed fees.

The LSC will be reviewing the operation of the first stage of graduated and fixed fees (implemented in October 2007 and January 2008) to see if any changes should be made to those existing schemes for April 2010. It intends to publish the outcome of that review in January 2009, with a further six-week consultation on any changes to be made to the stage 1 fees as a result. Any such changes would take effect in the new contracts from 1 April 2010.

Office of the Public Guardian: Powers of Attorney

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Office of the Public Guardian spent on training staff in the processing of registrations of lasting powers of attorney in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what training his Department provides for this purpose. [210922]

Bridget Prentice: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 came fully into force in October 2007. Prior to that point training provision was the responsibility of the Public Guardianship Office—the Office of the Public Guardian's predecessor. This included training for the new processes and procedures relating to Lasting Powers of Attorney that the Act introduced.

Since October, the OPG has been responsible for meeting all ongoing training needs. Over the last 12 months, specific training on the registration of LPAs has been provided to staff in the Applications and Processing area, which deals with the registration of LPAs, and to staff in the Contact Centre, which advises clients on LPA process and the progress of individual applications.

Additionally, all staff at the OPG attended awareness seminars on the new Act and LPAs. Initial training is gained through such seminars and similar themed workshops. Practical assistance has then been provided via desk bound training and a buddy scheme whereby experienced staff "shadow" new staff members and undertake additional floor-walking. This helps to ensure that staff are familiar with new systems and processes from which they may begin to put theory into practice.

Because of the range of training offered and in particular the significant amounts of flexibly provided by desk training, it has not been possible to provide exact figures on the total cost. However, based on average staff costs and reasonable assumptions of the average amount of time per staff member spent on training, we estimate a sum of £73,680 has been spent on staff training in relation to LPAs to date.

Training is continuing to be provided as the OPG develops its processes and court decisions become known.

Prisoners: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to assist prisoners to gain employment when released. [211935]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice is working in partnership with the Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Work and Pensions to implement the "Reducing Re-offending through Skills and Employment: Next Steps" action plan, in which the three priorities are to:

> engage employers through the Reducing Re-offending Corporate Alliance in improving the skills and employment outcomes of offenders;
>
> build on the new Offender Learning and Skills Service through the campus model which will give offenders more flexible access to skills and employment support with effective use of ICT; and
>
> use the commissioning role of the offender manager to build a new emphasis on skills and jobs in prisons and probation areas.

Work to implement the plan includes ensuring that offenders are given advice on job searching from Jobcentre Plus while still in custody and that this support continues after release. Many offenders are able to benefit from employment programmes such as the new deal and Progress2Work.

In addition, on 31 January 2008, the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor *Official Report*, column 37WS, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) announced the publication of the Prison Policy Update briefing paper which set out the Government's plans to increase the range of constructive work available to prisoners inside prisons, which will in turn increase their chances of getting a job on the outside. This work is well under way.

On 12 June he also announced four new workshops at Stocken prison. Bricklaying, painting and decorating, and learning to refurbish and repair hire equipment for builders' merchant Travis Perkins are among the skills being taught in the workshops.

On 10 June I launched a major new vocational training scheme at Wandsworth prison with Cisco Systems, Bovis Lend Lease and Panduit. The scheme will train prisoners in installing voice and data cabling within business and residential developments and, where possible, employing them within the Bovis social enterprise Be Onsite.

Young Offender Institutions: Social Services

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many social workers left employment inside juvenile prisons in the last year. [211361]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Seven people left social worker posts in young offender institutions during the 12 months to 31 March 2008. (Information supplied by the Youth Justice Board.)

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of social workers to children in each juvenile prison is. [211362]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The following table, based on information supplied by the Youth Justice Board, shows the ratio of social worker posts to trainees in each young offender institution in the secure estate for children and young people. To a certain extent, the varying ratios reflect the differing sizes of establishments. Steps are being taken to fill five posts that are currently vacant.

YOI	*Ratio of social workers to trainees*
Ashfield	1:200
Brinsford	1:112
Castington	1:168
Cookham Wood	1:157
Downview	0:16
Eastwood Park	0:16
Feltham	1:120
Foston Hall	0:16
Hindley	1:96
Huntercombe	1:180
Lancaster Farms	1:120
New Hall	1:26
Parc	1:64
Stoke Heath	1:202
Warren Hill	1:222
Werrington	1:160
Wetherby	1:204

Young Offenders: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders aged 10 to 17 years were found guilty and sentenced for *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape and *(c)* violence against the person in each year since 1997, broken down by criminal justice area. [212103]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

The number of persons sentenced were found guilty (either at court or by their own admission) prior to the point of sentencing.

Data for the offence of violence against the person will include the number of persons sentenced for murder.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

The Government are committed to tackling youth crime and particularly violent youth crime to reduce the impact it has on communities. The Government published their tackling violence action plan this year with a range of measures to address violent crime. The vast majority of youngsters are on the right track. In the five years to 2005, the frequency of juvenile reoffending fell by more than 17 per cent. The Offending Crime and Justice Survey shows that over the past three surveys overall youth offending has remained stable.

The Government will publish a Youth Crime Action Plan in the summer setting out a cross-Government approach to tackling youth crime.

Number of juveniles sentenced[1] for murder, rape and violence against the person[2], all courts, England and Wales 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Criminal justice area and offence group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2
Violence against the person	97	74	93	112	134	133	155	130	147	159
Bedfordshire										
Murder	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Violence against the person	41	49	38	42	43	38	43	52	62	63
Cambridgeshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Violence against the person	70	48	77	64	73	68	70	59	116	73
Cheshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Rape	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	6
Violence against the person	184	194	180	174	164	148	107	115	159	207
Cleveland										
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	3
Violence against the person	71	54	60	70	64	77	79	74	84	123
Cumbria										
Murder	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Violence against the person	75	89	90	81	79	64	91	93	100	111
Derbyshire										
Murder	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	3	2	2
Violence against the person	91	109	113	88	116	119	119	124	191	134
Devon and Cornwall										
Murder	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rape	3	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Violence against the person	86	82	86	110	74	119	138	147	142	116
Dorset										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape					1			1	2	1
Violence against the person	25	49	38	45	47	48	36	49	80	77
Durham										
Murder	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rape	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	1
Violence against the person	151	98	144	115	105	126	114	101	132	150
Essex										
Murder	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2	1
Violence against the person	134	135	99	117	146	144	176	208	178	170
Gloucestershire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of juveniles sentenced[1] for murder, rape and violence against the person[2], all courts, England and Wales 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Criminal justice area and offence group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Rape	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—
Violence against the person	40	46	37	48	46	42	43	54	71	66
Greater Manchester										
Murder	1	1	3	—	4	4	—	1	4	1
Rape	2	2	1	3	2	—	3	3	5	4
Violence against the person	436	457	501	565	653	565	526	602	573	525
Hampshire										
Murder	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Rape	3	1	2	2	1	—	2	1	3	4
Violence against the person	179	224	201	233	209	271	269	274	265	249
Hertfordshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Violence against the person	69	70	62	95	87	110	107	116	148	111
Humberside										
Murder	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	4
Violence against the person	115	120	118	130	103	129	143	107	144	162
Kent										
Murder	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	4	1
Violence against the person	151	144	146	128	154	124	123	101	147	145
Lancashire										
Murder	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rape	2	—	3	—	—	2	1	1	1	3
Violence against the person	219	220	177	218	212	235	225	206	278	314
Leicestershire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rape	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Violence against the person	130	120	139	129	145	150	146	144	155	151
Lincolnshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Violence against the person	35	69	44	43	51	44	60	57	66	44
Merseyside										
Murder	1	1	3	3	3	—	—	—	1	—
Rape	2	1	—	1	6	—	—	2	3	4
Violence against the person	222	233	221	234	272	251	260	299	262	297
London										
Murder	6	1	4	8	6	7	1	5	6	7
Rape	16	7	12	9	8	8	9	7	8	10
Violence against the person	752	766	773	873	1,081	1,104	889	949	1,057	1,093
Norfolk										
Rape	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	1
Violence against the person	60	57	62	49	62	45	67	44	58	69

Number of juveniles sentenced[1] for murder, rape and violence against the person[2], all courts, England and Wales 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Criminal justice area and offence group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North Yorkshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Rape	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	2
Violence against the person	65	46	59	61	39	51	62	58	68	91
Northamptonshire										
Murder	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
Violence against the person	46	77	85	62	39	43	33	34	40	35
Northumbria										
Murder	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Rape	7	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	3
Violence against the person	287	358	305	311	333	332	274	296	308	235
Nottinghamshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Rape	—	—	4	1	3	—	1	—	3	2
Violence against the person	149	118	121	157	159	129	132	115	153	163
South Yorkshire										
Murder	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	3	1
Rape	4	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	5
Violence against the person	162	152	170	170	191	221	192	189	213	216
Staffordshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	1
Violence against the person	84	98	110	151	102	131	124	129	154	133
Suffolk										
Murder	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Rape	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Violence against the person	44	33	67	48	50	65	72	76	102	110
Surrey										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1
Violence against the person	31	40	28	49	51	37	49	69	57	72
Sussex										
Murder	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rape	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	1
Violence against the person	96	80	62	97	105	105	120	141	161	168
Thames Valley										
Murder	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
Rape	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	1
Violence against the person	116	118	103	127	132	132	131	137	184	192
Warwickshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Violence against the person	49	48	40	29	42	33	28	51	47	63
West Mercia										
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Number of juveniles sentenced[1] for murder, rape and violence against the person[2], all courts, England and Wales 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

Criminal justice area and offence group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Rape	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	2
Violence against the person	107	101	98	93	155	118	108	107	167	185
West Midlands										
Murder	5	2	—	3	1	—	1	—	2	—
Rape	5	5	4	4	3	—	4	3	8	4
Violence against the person	449	463	489	559	634	606	534	540	416	517
West Yorkshire										
Murder	2	1	3	—	—	3	—	1	2	2
Rape	1	5	8	1	2	1	3	3	11	3
Violence against the person	285	293	309	258	240	252	245	351	288	237
Wiltshire										
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Violence against the person	35	52	36	45	58	56	63	51	68	93
Dyfed-Powys										
Murder	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violence against the person	53	63	67	60	46	37	56	50	55	45
Gwent										
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rape	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Violence against the person	92	79	68	85	82	76	88	93	89	93
North Wales										
Murder	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
Violence against the person	68	73	64	92	91	86	92	99	100	113
South Wales										
Murder	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rape	1	3	1	4	1	1	—	2	4	3
Violence against the person	235	195	225	215	229	206	188	211	159	189
England and Wales										
Murder	26	10	24	20	27	20	9	13	26	19
Rape	58	36	55	43	42	31	35	46	86	85
Violence against the person	5,886	5,994	6,005	6,424	6.910	6,870	6,577	6,902	7,444	7,559

[1] The data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data for violence against the person will include the number sentenced for murder.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS, Analytical Services

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government have taken to reduce re-offending by young offenders. [211936]

Mr. Hanson: Between 2000 and 2005 youth re-offending has reduced by 2.5 per cent. The same period has also seen the frequency of juvenile re-offending reduce by 17.4 per cent. and a reduction in the rate of re-offending of 0.7 per cent. for those offences classified as serious. This means that those young people that do re-offend are re-offending less often.

We will be building on this work and we are developing a cross-government youth crime action plan which will set out work to further reduce offending and re-offending by young people.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Castle Point Borough Council: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid for consultancy services by *(a)* Castle Point Borough Council and *(b)* Essex County Council in each of the last 10 years. [212064]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Community Development

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* terms of reference, *(b)* membership, *(c)* programme of work and *(d)* opportunities for input from the public and others are for the review team on disadvantaged communities chaired by Stephen Houghton announced on 28 May 2008. [212247]

Mr. Dhanda: The Tackling Worklessness Review will:

> Examine how local authorities and their partners are using the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to tackle worklessness within their worst performing neighbourhoods;
>
> Identify what more central Government departments can do to support local partners to deliver better employment and skills services for their residents and employers;
>
> Consider how the private sector, social enterprises and third sector groups, and the Regional Development Agencies can help local partners to improve employment in Working Neighbourhood Fund areas and through the new Local Performance Framework; and
>
> Report the group's findings to the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) and the Minister for Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) by October 2008, to be followed by the publication of the group's final report.

Councillor Stephen Houghton will chair the review. He will be joined by representatives from social enterprise (Claire Dove) and the private sector (Steve Olive) as well as senior Government officials.

As the first meeting scoping the group has yet to take place (scheduled for 25 June) information on the programme of work and opportunities for input from the public and others is not yet available.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regional development agencies will be charging authorities under the new community infrastructure levy. [212723]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report,* 1 February 2008, column 606, where I stated, during the Commons Committee stage of the Planning Bill, that

> "we have no intention of empowering regional planning bodies, whether in their current form or as regional development agencies, as CIL charging authorities".

Council House Transfers: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants in each London borough applied for a housing transfer to *(a)* another London borough and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK in each of the last five years. [210272]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected centrally. Information is held centrally on households on council housing waiting lists but not on council tenants specifically seeking housing transfers.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of council tax and non-domestic rates not collected in 2007-08 was in each billing authority in England. [211388]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table giving details of the amount and the proportion of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* non-domestic rates in respect of 2007-08 that remained uncollected by each billing authority by 31 March 2008. The in year collection rates for council tax in 2007-08 rose for the 8th successive year and are now at 97.1 per cent. Collection of council tax and non-domestic rates continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* cost was of each research contract her Department and its predecessor has commissioned since 2003. [212785]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject and cost of each research contract.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what independent inquiries have been commissioned by her Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each. [211122]

Hazel Blears: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not commissioned any independent public inquiries in the last five years.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* her Department, *(b)* each of its agencies and *(c)* the Audit Commission subscribes; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210884]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not subscribe to any Sky, digital terrestrial, or cable television channels that attract a regular payment. The Department (including the Government offices) receives television channels on a Freeview basis.

The Department's agencies report the following:

The Planning Inspectorate does not subscribe to any Sky, digital terrestrial, or cable television channels.

The Queen Elizabeth 2nd Conference Centre does not subscribe to any Sky, digital terrestrial, or cable television channels.

The Fire Service College subscribes to the basic Sky TV package with Sky Sports and Asian channels added. This was at a cost of £957.69 in the 2007-08 financial year.

The Ordnance Survey does not subscribe to these channels

The Audit Commission does not have a subscription for premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels. The channels they do receive form part of a Freeview package.

Eco-towns: Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the area in hectares of the proposed Ford eco-town site is; and what proportion is *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield land. [212264]

Caroline Flint: The Ford eco-town is a site of 368.8 hectares. 30 per cent. of the site, 108.36 hectares, is brownfield and the remaining 70 per cent., 260.33 hectares, is classified greenfield. Details about this site and the other shortlisted eco-towns are available through our website. A summary of the Ford proposal and all the shortlisted locations is also available in the consultation document, "Eco-towns—Living a greener future".

Eco-towns: Staffordshire

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will make a decision on whether to allow the commencement of construction of the proposed new eco-town at Curborough. [210377]

Caroline Flint: We are currently consulting on the shortlisted locations in "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" and this includes Curborough. In addition we expect to publish in July—for further consultation—a draft sustainability appraisal on the locations and a draft planning policy statement which will set out more detail for each location.

Later in the year, and only after this second consultation will we decide which sites have potential to be an eco-town and which schemes we will support as they go forward into the local planning process, where they will undergo further testing and consultation.

Essex County Council: Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Essex County Council on promotion of *(a)* tourism, *(b)* enterprise and *(c)* sport in each of the last 10 years. [212075]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Floods: Planning Permission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to local planning authorities on the account to be taken of the contribution that permeable paving may make to flood defences in decisions on planning applications. [211215]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk", (PPS25), already advises applicants to include an assessment of surface water and drainage from proposed developments, as part of their Flood Risk Assessments. Local planning authorities should take account of these when deciding planning applications which include paving. A Practice Guide to PPS25 has just been published and this includes advice on sustainable drainage. We do not think that any further guidance is necessary.

We intend to amend current permitted development rights that allow householders to pave over their front gardens so as to require that the paving will not lead to the front garden area being impermeable. We intend this change to come into force on 1 October this year and we will publish guidance to explain how householders can comply with this requirement.

Homelessness: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* women, *(b)* men and *(c)* adolescents she estimates are currently living on the streets in West Chelmsford constituency. [211984]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities measure rough sleeping by conducting single night street counts where there is a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem. Chelmsford council have not conducted a street count, which signifies that they believe that the area does not have a rough sleeping problem.

There has been considerable progress in tackling rough sleeping as the most visible form of homelessness. The target of a two-thirds reduction from the 1998 baseline of 1,850 people sleeping rough on the streets on any single night was met early in 2001 and has been sustained.

Housing Market

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the speaking notes prepared for the Minister for Housing on the state of the housing market on 13 May 2008. [211390]

Caroline Flint: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the downturn in the housing market on the Government's target to build 3 million homes. [211380]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 497W to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy).

Housing: Floods

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of skill shortages in relation to repairs needed to houses affected by the summer 2007 floods; [211428]

(2) what assessment she has made of the availability of *(a)* plumbers, *(b)* electricians, *(c)* plasterers and *(d)* other essential workers necessary to complete repairs due to flood damage from summer 2007. [211910]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households remain in temporary accommodation following the summer 2007 floods, broken down by local authority area; [211429]

(2) how many households are still displaced following the summer floods of 2007, broken down by local government area. [211837]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households which were flooded in summer 2007 remain empty. [211670]

John Healey: As at 30 May, we estimate that approximately 4,700 households remain wholly or partially displaced from their homes following the floods of summer 2007. Around one in six of those not back in their homes at the end of April had returned by the end of May. A breakdown of the figures by local authority area is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/846188.pdf

Housing: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built in *(a)* Cleethorpes, *(b)* Grimsby, *(c)* Brigg and Goole, *(d)* North East Lincolnshire and *(e)* North Lincolnshire in each year since 1997. [211976]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data for the parliamentary constituencies of Cleethorpes, Grimsby and Brigg and Goole are not available. These constituencies are sections of North East Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authorities.

The following table shows the number of homes built in North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authorities from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

	North East Lincolnshire	*North Lincolnshire*	*East riding of Yorkshire*
1997-98	240	1,576	1,781
1998-99	116	455	1,262
1999-2000	477	551	1,123
2000-01	347	640	1,053
2001-02	259	738	964
2002-03	199	545	1,064
2003-04	503	527	1,285
2004-05	425	503	864
2005-06	186	1,126	851
2006-07	471	655	803
2007-08	176	446	564

Source:
P2Q returns from local authorities to Communities and Local Government.

A quarterly National Statistics release on house building starts and completions is published by the Department. The latest publication can be found on the CLG website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/804283.pdf

In addition, information on house building starts and completions by local authority is available from the Department's 'housing live tables'. These can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable new homes have been built in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210971]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data are not available for Jarrow constituency. This constituency, however, is within South Tyneside local authority for which figures are available.

The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in South Tyneside local authority, the North East and England for each year from 1997-98. The figures include social rent and intermediate affordable housing new build; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

New build affordable homes in South Tyneside, North East and England

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1997-98	48	1,250	28,210
1998-99	48	954	26,538
1999-2000	67	793	22,321
2000-01	52	563	20,939
2001-02	25	823	21,739
2002-03	10	295	21,096
2003-04	80	563	23,888
2004-05	43	671	26,331
2005-06	70	917	32,997
2006-07	75	1,222	35,941

Sources:
Housing Corporation
Local authority returns to Communities and Local Government.

Statistics on affordable housing supply (new build and acquisitions) for England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 12 June and accompanying live tables. The web links are show as follows:

Link to Affordable Housing Statistics Release is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/838468

Link to Affordable Housing Live Tables are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [212066]

Mr. Iain Wright: Between 2002 and 2007, 2,974 net affordable homes have been completed in Essex, representing almost 9 per cent. of total net completed dwellings. For the same period, Castle Point delivered 29 net affordable homes (during 2004-05 only) which represents 3 per cent. of their total net completed dwellings.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the target of an additional three million affordable homes to be met; and if she will make a statement. [212334]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's proposals are set out in the Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable" (CM 7191), copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the level of gazundering in the housing market. [212740]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such estimate has been made.

Local Authorities: Allowances

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to *(a)* collect information and *(b)* report on the average allowances paid per member by each (i) county council and (ii) borough council. [212068]

John Healey: We have no plans to collect or report on allowances paid to local authority members, which are matters for each council to decide, having regard to the recommendations of their independent remuneration panel and on which the council is accountable to their local electorate.

Local Authorities: Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will make it her policy to *(a)* collect information and *(b)* report on the level of spending on hospitality by each (i) county council and (ii) borough council; [212063]

(2) if she will make it her policy to (a) collect information and (b) report on the level of spending on air travel by each (i) county council and (ii) borough council. [212069]

John Healey: The Government have no plans to collect information or require councils to report on the level of spending on hospitality or on air travel. Local authorities are independent bodies accountable to their electorate and decisions on these matters are a matter for each authority.

Migration

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1604W, when her Department plans to publish the cross-government action plan on the local impacts of migration. [212934]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government published "Managing the Impacts of Migration: A cross-Government Approach" on 11 June 2008.

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many premises received small business rate relief in each of the last five years in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* Essex. [212060]

John Healey: Castle Point borough council reported there were 625 businesses in their area in receipt of small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available.

At the same date, local authorities in Essex reported there were a total of 13,242 businesses in receipt of small business rate relief.

Planning Permission: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the planning application for Hunts Grove was called in by her Department; which persons supported call-in; what the cost of this further inquiry was; and if she will make a statement. [212306]

Mr. Iain Wright: The application for development at Hunts Grove was called in by the Secretary of State because she considered that the proposal may conflict with national policies on important matters in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing [PPS3]. She also wished to be sure of the extent to which the proposed development accords with the current and draft Regional Spatial Strategy, the adopted Gloucestershire Structure Plan; and the Stroud Local Plan. A letter sent to Stroud district council explained these reasons more fully. I understand that a copy of this letter was sent to my hon. Friend by my noble Friend Baroness Andrews, but I will ensure that a further copy is provided.

Requests to "call in" the proposal were received from Gloucester city council, two interested parties, my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester and my hon. Friend.

The overall cost of the inquiry is not known. Stroud district council would have provided the venue and borne the cost of their legal and other representatives both before and during the inquiry. In this type of inquiry the Planning Inspector's costs are not recharged to the council but are borne by the Planning Inspectorate which is an agency of the Secretary of State's Department.

Regional Planning and Development: East Midlands

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish proposed changes to the draft East Midlands plan. [212210]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government aims to publish proposed changes to the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (the draft East Midlands Regional Plan) this summer.

Regional Spatial Strategies: Greenbelt

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any core strategies have been rejected or found unsound by planning inspectors due to insufficient consideration given to planning for *(a)* green field and *(b)* green belt development; and if she will make a statement. [211382]

Mr. Iain Wright: No core strategy development plan document will have been found unsound purely on the basis of the consideration of green field or green belt land for housing because the issue of housing land will have been looked at on a comprehensive basis, taking into account all sources of potential supply.

Rented Housing: Community Development

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she has assessed the effect of the increase in privately rented accommodation on *(a)* community relations and *(b)* neighbour disputes; [211082]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the responsibilities of private landlords to ensure that their tenants behave responsibly towards neighbours and the wider community; [211083]

(3) what assessment she has made of trends in the proportion of privately-rented properties owned by absent landlords on former council estates over the last 20 years; and what assessment she has made of the effects of such trends. [211084]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally. However, as part of their strategic housing role, local housing authorities make assessments of the extent, condition and location of the private rented stock in their areas together with the impact on local communities.

Where local housing authorities consider that there is a need to exert more control on the management of the private rented sector in specific neighbourhoods in their area, it is open to them to introduce selective licensing regimes alongside other strategic initiatives and subject to the consent of the Secretary of State. So far, seven such schemes have been introduced by five local authorities. We are aware of several other schemes in preparation. The Department has commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector which may offer a view on the issues raised. It is scheduled to report in October 2008.

Rented Housing: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of private tenants in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [212093]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table respectively shows the number of private sector dwellings completed in Essex and Castle Point over period 2002-2007. These figures do not indicate the number of private sector tenants over that period, since it is not possible to estimate the number of tenants residing in a property at any one time.

Private sector (non RSL) dwelling stock position 2002-07

	Castlepoint	Essex
2002-2003	33,765	589,586
2003-2004	33,996	599,645
2004-2005	34,084	601,922
2005-2006	34,371	606,884
2006-2007	34,608	612,303

Repossession Orders: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were repossessed in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [212067]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables 1 and 2, respectively show the numbers of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in each of the Essex county courts since 2003.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

No county court caters only for repossession actions relating to properties in the Castle Point constituency. The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. As county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with the borough boundaries, any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

Table 1: Mortgage[1] possession orders[2, 3] in the county courts[4] of Essex since 2003

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Basildon	478	612	910	1,048	1,057
Chelmsford	175	226	355	381	383

Table 1: Mortgage[1] possession orders[2, 3] in the county courts[4] of Essex since 2003

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Colchester	300	385	542	695	778
Harlow[5]	139	183	258	310	—
Southend-on-Sea	348	416	620	657	606
Essex[5]	1,440	1,822	2,685	3,091	—
South East	8,201	10,050	15,220	17,693	17,824

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[3] Includes suspended orders and orders made.

[4] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.

[5] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court and county level data on possession orders. It is only possible to provide court level figures for those courts with direct on-site PCOL access for 2007. Upward adjustments have been made for the missing data at HMCS regional level, hence the figures for the South East are provided. Source: Ministry of Defence

Table 2: Landlord[1] possession orders[2, 3, 4] in the county courts[5] of Essex since 2003

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Basildon	1,004	1,051	810	853	769
Chelmsford	347	337	266	313	324
Colchester	706	623	677	656	647
Harlow[6]	410	399	383	342	—
Southend-on-Sea	487	439	473	490	475
Essex[6]	2,954	2,849	2,609	2,654	—
South East	20,336	19,834	19,157	18,093	18,973

[1] Landlord possession data include all types of landlords.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[3] Includes suspended orders and orders made.

[4] Landlord possession orders made through standard and accelerated procedures.

[5] Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.

[6] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2006 has affected the availability of court and county level data on possession orders. It is only possible to provide court level figures for those courts with direct on-site PCOL access for 2007. Upward adjustments have been made for the missing data at HMCS regional level, hence the figures for the South East are provided.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Shops

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of economic conditions and the state of the credit market on trends in the rate of letting retail properties in urban redevelopment projects; and if she will make a statement. [206856]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are closely monitoring the property market to assess the impact of the global credit problems. While there is some concern about the potential impact of the credit crunch on future urban redevelopment, rates of lettings will depend on local market conditions and the ability of the redevelopment scheme to compete with other locations. We will continue to look at what action needs to be taken.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented homes have been built in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210974]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data are not available for Jarrow constituency. This constituency, however, is within South Tyneside local authority for which figures are available.

The following table shows the number of social rented new build homes in South Tyneside local authority, the North East and England in each year since 1997-98: The figures exclude social rented acquisitions.

New build social rent homes in South Tyneside, North East and England

	South Tyneside	North East	England
1997-98	38	1,068	24,015
1998-99	48	824	22,607
1999-2000	67	706	19,574
2000-01	31	470	18,232
2001-02	14	713	18,637
2002-03	10	289	17,510
2003-04	80	537	18,369
2004-05	25	565	18,187
2005-06	42	748	20,248
2006-07	74	1,087	21,178

Sources:
Housing Corporation
Local authority returns to Communities and Local Government.

Statistics on affordable housing supply (new build and acquisitions) for England were published in the Communities and Local Government Statistics Release of 12 June and accompanying live tables. The web links are show as follows:

Link to Affordable Housing Statistics Release is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/838468

Link to Affordable Housing Live Tables are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Somerset County Council: Finance

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Somerset County Council's borrowing was in each of the last five years. [211434]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows Somerset county council's total gross borrowing and the change in borrowing for each of the last five years.

£ million

	Outstanding amount at 31 March	Change in borrowing
2003-04	272.9	11.3
2004-05	374.6	101.7
2005-06	399.5	24.9
2006-07	440.2	40.7
2007-08	390.9	-49.3

Source:
Quarterly Borrowing returns and Public Works Loan Board.

Waste Management: Energy

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she gives to local authorities on the assessment of the viability of new energy from waste developments with particular reference to *(a)* the effect on recycling targets and *(b)* environmental standards of those developments. [210359]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Waste Strategy 2007 sets out our policy on energy from waste, and provides guidance on the various energy from waste technologies, their different feedstocks, carbon emissions, and outputs. These are described in the 'summary guidance on energy from waste technology' (Annex E of Waste Strategy 2007).

New incinerators have to meet the requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive (200/76/EC), Article 6(6) which requires that

> 'any heat generated by the incineration or the co-incineration process shall be recovered as far as practicable'.

Guidance published by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government was first issued in early 2003 and deals with this, and all other requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive.

However, technology choice is ultimately a matter for local authorities, and not DEFRA. Any plans for new energy from waste facilities must emerge out of local waste strategies, so that all options for reuse, recycling and composting can be explored first. We expect greenhouse gas emissions to be a key consideration of those developing waste to energy plants.

Experience from many other European countries has shown that a vigorous energy from waste policy is compatible with high recycling rates (e.g. Netherlands 65 per cent./33 per cent.; Sweden 42 per cent./45 per cent.; Denmark 41 per cent./55 per cent.).

All municipal waste incinerators are tightly regulated under the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) to protect public health and the environment. Emission standards for incinerators are tighter than for conventional power stations.

With regard to energy from waste projects undertaken as part of DEFRA's Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding scheme, the current Waste PFI criteria were issued in May 2006. Projects must meet these criteria in order to be considered for PFI credits. The criteria aim to ensure that PFI credits are allotted to projects that are value for money and enable the investment in residual waste infrastructure necessary if the demanding targets in the Landfill Directive and Waste Strategy for England 2007 are to be met.

The following criteria are included:

> 2. PFI credits are awarded to authorities primarily to deliver increased diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. Proposals should demonstrate how the schemes:
>
> contribute to or complement longer-term national targets for recycling and composting as well as diversion of biodegradable and other municipal waste from landfill, indicating the amount of biodegradable and other municipal waste expected to be diverted from landfill over the whole life of the project;
>
> support or complement the authorities' plans for recycling set out in their Municipal Waste Management Strategies.
>
> 5. The use of residual waste treatment options involving recovery, including energy from waste solutions, will have an integral role in treating the waste we cannot 'design out', re-use or recycle. Such options should be considered while also demonstrating that there is no future barrier to meeting reduction, reuse and recycling targets.
>
> 6. Proposals should demonstrate that other relevant authorities, the public, and interested parties have been consulted and that there is a broad consensus supporting a recognised long term waste management strategy which is reflected in the proposed solution.
>
> 10. Preferential consideration will be given to capital projects which focus on residual treatment plant only, including, but not limited to, Energy from Waste, Mechanical Biological Treatments and Anaerobic Digestion.

The full criteria are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/funding/pfi/pdf/pfi-criteria-aug08.pdf

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Autism

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will conduct an investigation into the potential effects of ultrasonic dispersal devices on young people with autism. [207768]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

At the present time, the Government do not have any plans to conduct an investigation into the potential effects of ultrasonic dispersal devices on young people with autism.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students had claimed education maintenance allowance for more than two years in each year since 2004-05. [210091]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who have operational responsibility for the EMA for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 17 June 2008:

> I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; "How many students have claimed Education Maintenance Allowance for more than two years in each year since 2004-05".
>
> In 2006/07 there were 44,167 learners who have previously received EMA payments in two previous academic years.
>
> In 2007/08, to date, there have been 52,895 learners who had previously received EMA payments in two previous academic years.
>
> I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people in receipt of the education maintenance allowance subsequently did not complete the course of education for which the allowance was provided in each year since its inception; [210270]

(2) how many people were in receipt of the education maintenance allowance in each London borough in each year since its inception. [210271]

Jim Knight: The LSC operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

The LSC does not collect information specifically about completion rates for learners in receipt of EMA and there are no recent estimates available. However, it would be reasonable to expect improvements in completion rates to contribute to increased attainment by EMA recipients. Recent analysis commissioned by the LSC shows significant positive impacts on the attainment of young people taking Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. These positive impacts have been particularly strong among more disadvantaged groups such as those from the most deprived neighbourhoods and those who had previously achieved less well academically.

A copy of the results of this evaluation, with a summary of the key findings, was placed in the House Library on 3 December 2007.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 17 June 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked;

"How many people were in receipt of the education maintenance allowance in each London borough in each year since its inception".

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

The following table shows EMA take-up for each London Local Authority area during each academic year since inception:

Area type	*Area name*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*[1]
National	England	297,259	429,627	527,319	542,710
Region	London	50,896	70,480	83,262	85,170
LSC	London Central	11,171	14,043	16,319	16,035
LA	Camden	1,550	1,749	1,982	1,954
LA	Islington	1,682	1,976	2,233	2,256
LA	Kensington and Chelsea	325	691	891	885
LA	Lambeth	2,791	3,406	3,822	3,666
LA	Southwark	2,647	3,138	3,668	3,484
LA	Wandsworth	1,607	1,948	2,202	2,223
LA	Westminster	569	1,135	1,521	1,567
LSC	London East	18,871	24,229	27,630	28,458
LA	City of London	18	64	70	29
LA	Greenwich	2,161	2,479	2,795	2,875
LA	Hackney	2,841	3,262	3,345	3,390
LA	Lewisham	2,575	2,945	3,606	3,599
LA	Tower Hamlets	3,265	3,626	3,932	3,956
LA	Barking and Dagenham	1,408	1,917	2,315	2,443
LA	Bexley	834	1,552	1,893	2,036
LA	Havering	821	1,498	1,728	1,806
LA	Newham	3,774	4,601	5,095	5,216
LA	Redbridge	1,174	2,285	2,851	3,108
LSC	London North	7,292	10,622	12,820	13,405
LA	Barnet	1,044	2,198	2,818	2,951
LA	Enfield	1,337	2,639	3,499	3,731
LA	Haringey	2,508	2,984	3,409	3,469
LA	Waltham Forest	2,403	2,801	3,094	3,254
LSC	London South	4,253	8,332	10,711	11,062
LA	Bromley	936	1,698	2,059	2,052
LA	Croydon	1,375	2,874	3,828	3,966
LA	Kingston-Upon-Thames	370	706	907	930
LA	Merton	613	1,261	1,694	1,829
LA	Richmond-Upon-Thames	359	683	823	856

Area type	*Area name*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*[1]
LA	Sutton	600	1,110	1,400	1,429
LSC	London West	9,309	13,254	15,782	16,210
LA	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,247	1,429	1,634	1,589
LA	Brent	2,744	3,349	3,762	3,869
LA	Ealing	2,682	3,158	3,440	3,602
LA	Harrow	849	1,785	2,302	2,379
LA	Hillingdon	883	1,695	2,223	2,381
LA	Hounslow	904	1,838	2,421	2,390

[1] Year to date—28 August 2007 to 31 May 2008.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Hosting For Overseas Students: Vetting

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances families in England hosting foreign schoolchildren for fewer than 28 days are required to undergo a criminal records bureau check; and if he will make a statement. [212235]

Beverley Hughes: We expect UK host families involved in providing accommodation for foreign students in organised school exchange visits to undergo enhanced CRB checks. This is in line with guidance to schools in respect of volunteers involved in activities requiring an overnight stay, as set out in paragraph 4.56 of "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". We also recommend that host families are given basic awareness of child protection issues and the contact details of the designated senior person within the school with responsibility for safeguarding issues.

For other host families making private arrangements of fewer than 28 days, CRB Disclosures are not required in this area. We recommend however those involved in supervising or looking after the child are made aware of child protection issues as set out in "What To Do if You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused". Organisations setting up such visits should consider developing guidance and child protection policies to enable host families to clearly understand the issues and their responsibilities.

The new independent safeguarding (ISA) scheme will mean that from October 2009 those who provide care and accommodation for children under 18 for reward or in pursuance of an arrangement made by someone other than a member of the child's family will be engaged in regulated activity.

This includes host family arrangements for fewer than 28 days made by other organisations providing tuition in languages or other subjects. It will be a criminal offence for a barred individual to engage in this activity and the person organising the host family placement will be required to check that the person providing the care and accommodation is ISA registered.

Learning and Skills Councils: Finance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has in relation to the discretionary spending powers and resources of the learning and skills councils. [204403]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The 2008-09 Grant Letter to the LSC sets out a record level of investment for post 16 education and training over the next three years, with some £11.5 billion in 2008-09, raising to over £12 billion in 2009-10, and over £12.5 billion in 2010-11. The LSC has discretion over how these budgets are spent to ensure that young people are able to access learning opportunities that meet their needs, and to meet the skill needs of individuals and employers at national, regional and local level. These decisions are taken within the framework set by the annual Grant Letter, issued jointly by the Secretaries of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Children, Schools and Families; and relevant PSA targets.

Our proposals in the White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver', published on 17 March 2008, will move resources and decision making powers away from the LSC. However, these changes require legislation and are unlikely to take full effect until the 2010/11 academic year. Until then the LSC remains legally responsible for funding and commissioning post-16 education and training.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the universal early years entitlement of 12.5 hours a week in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [206147]

Beverley Hughes: Local authority expenditure on under fives in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors is shown in the following table.

The estimated £4 billion spent on the free entitlement in 2007-08 is both the largest amount ever spent by a Government on this age group and is sufficient to deliver high-quality early learning and care for all eligible three and four-year-olds in a range of settings.

Total expenditure on under fives in nursery schools, primary schools and the private, voluntary and independent sectors

	£ million
2001-02	2,698
2002-03	2,757

Total expenditure on under fives in nursery schools, primary schools and the private, voluntary and independent sectors

	£ million
2003-04	3,040
2004-05	3,275
2005-06	3,473
2006-07	[1]3,693
2007-08	[2]4,027

[1] Provisional.
[2] Estimated.

Note:
The figures are in cash terms and are an estimate of the expenditure on under fives in private, voluntary and independent settings and nursery schools and nursery classes.

Source:
Table 8.5 of the Departmental Annual Report, 2008.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated for all childcare settings to provide the early years foundation stage; and how much and what proportion of this budget has been allocated to information technology. [210025]

Beverley Hughes: The available expenditure on nursery provision (including private/voluntary/independent settings, maintained nurseries and nursery units at maintained primaries) was estimated at £4,027 million in 2007-08 (figure from the 2008 Departmental Report, Table 8.5). It is not possible to break down the information technology funding by phase, but the total figure within the schools budget in 2007-08 was estimated at £617 million (DAR 2008 Table 8.3). This figure is capital funding and is separate from the revenue funding quoted above.

Teachers: Resignations

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers under the age of 60 employed in local authority maintained schools in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London left their posts in each of the last five years. [212625]

Jim Knight: The table provides the number of full and part-time regular teachers aged under 60 who left their posts in local authority maintained schools in the London Government Office Region in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06, the latest information available. This information is not available by local authority.

Teachers leaving their post are defined as those who left teaching service, including those retiring and those going on unpaid leave of absence such as maternity leave, or went to a teaching post outside of the local authority maintained sector in England, or who changed their school or employing authority. Teachers who left a full-time post to take up a part-time post or vice versa are also included.

Number of full and part-time regular teachers in the local authority maintained sector leaving their post[1] years: 2001-02 to 2005-06—coverage: London Government Office Region

	Teachers
2001-02	12,790
2002-03	12,770
2003-04	11,680
2004-05	10,840
2005-06	10,610

[1] The number of teachers leaving their post may be slightly underestimated as around 10 to 20 per cent. of part-time teachers are missing from the data source. In addition it is believed that not all moves between schools within local authorities are recorded.

Source:
Database of Teachers Records

Young Offenders: Administration of Justice

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether it is Government policy that individuals under the age of 18 years convicted of a serious offence will be dealt with primarily by children's services in the future; [211553]

(2) whether his Department has undertaken research into the effects on public confidence of the transfer of work with young offenders to local authorities' children's services and children's trusts; [211554]

(3) if he will take steps to transfer work with young offenders to children's trusts. [211838]

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to incorporate work with young offenders into local authority children's services; [211867]

(2) what plans he has to transfer work with young offenders to children's trusts. [211870]

Beverley Hughes: The Children's Plan set out that we would publish a Youth Crime Action Plan that would examine what a more effective approach to prevention would look like and how to strengthen the approach we are taking to offending by young people. As part of this work we are examining a range of options that look at the roles of different agencies locally in tackling youth crime and our proposals will be set out in the forthcoming Youth Crime Action Plan.

Many areas are already taking steps to closely integrate the work of their youth offending services with wider services for children and we have been looking at the role that children's services play in prevention of offending and re-offending. We have not conducted any specific research into the effects on public confidence on the policy options but we will be using the Youth Crime Action Plan to seek views from the public and practitioners on the proposals.

Youth Justice Annual Statistics 2006-07

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Youth Justice Board to publish the Youth Justice Annual Statistics for 2006-07. [207074]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006-07 Youth Justice Board Workload Data (previously called Annual Statistics) were published on 15 May 2008. An electronic version is available at:

http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Resources/Downloads/Youth%20Justice%20Annual%20Workload%20Data%20200607.pdf

HEALTH

Asthma

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on the management of asthma. [210422]

Ann Keen: The Department has issued an 'exemplar' on asthma management in children ("National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services: Asthma" 14 September 2004). This is part of the materials provided by the Department to support achievement of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (the NSF) which was published in 2004. Copies of both publication are available in the Library.

While the 'exemplar' is not intended as guidance, it does illustrate one possible care pathway for a child with asthma as a way to illustrate the sort of aspects of asthma management, care and services that would enable local authority and primary healthcare trust partners in an area to meet the NSF standard on caring for the disabled child.

No similar exemplar exists for adults.

Dental Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children were examined by an NHS dentist in each health authority area in each year since 2001, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; [210513]

(2) how many adults were examined by an NHS dentist in each health authority in each year since 2001, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [210524]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the form requested.

Information on the number of people registered with a national health service dentist, for adults and children, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Further breakdown of this information by age and sex would be available only at disproportionate cost.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist for the specified period, for adults and children, in England, is available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3, 31 December 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007, and 31 December 2007. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Further breakdown of this information by age and sex would be available only at disproportionate cost.

This publication is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Epilepsy: Death

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a database to record deaths from epilepsy; and if he will make a statement. [210714]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to establish a database to record deaths from epilepsy. However, I have agreed to meet with the Epilepsy Bereaved to discuss this matter further.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of GP practices in England in 2010-11. [203401]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire to the reply I gave on 3 April 2008.

Health Service Commissioner: Correspondence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the time taken by the Parliamentary Health Service Commissioner to answer constituency correspondence from hon. Members. [210746]

Ann Keen: It is not appropriate for the Department to answer questions on behalf of the ombudsman; she works independently of the Government. The question should be referred to her office at the following address:

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP
or by e-mail: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

Health Services: Religion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on healthcare chaplaincy in the NHS. [210194]

Ann Keen: No such research has been commissioned by the Department during the current parliamentary session, which commenced in November 2007.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what central allocation of funding was made to healthcare chaplaincy services in the NHS in each of the last five years. [210195]

Ann Keen: Funding for the provision of health care chaplaincy services is built into the financial allocations to primary care trusts, who commission services on behalf of patients.

The Department provides central funding to support the development of the chaplaincy work force. The information in the following table shows which faith groups received funding in the last three years. Funding arrangements were restructured in 2005, following an independent review of central funding of hospital chaplaincy, conducted by John James and involving all main faith-based groups. The new arrangements resulted in more support for minority faith groups by redistributing the existing budget more equitably to provide for the religious and spiritual needs of patients while in hospital. Prior to 2005-06, funding totalled £170,000 per annum.

The distribution of funding for 2008-09 is yet to be determined.

			£
Organisation name	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Free Churches Group at Churches Together in England	43,000	43,000	41,225
United Synagogue Visitation Committee	43,000	43,000	41,225
The Muslim Council of Great Britain	43,000	43,000	41,225
The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)	12,000	8,400	8,000
The Hospital Chaplaincies Council	6,500	6,800	5,000
UK Sikh Healthcare Chaplaincy Group	16,050	6,000	6,000
Buddhist Healthcare Chaplaincy Group	5,000	4,000	4,000
National Council of Hindu Temples	13,950	[1]—	8,000
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of the UK	700	[1]—	[1]—
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe	[1]—	[1]—	[2]5,000
The Buddhist Society	[1]—	[1]—	[2]4,000

[1] Denotes no bid received.

[2] Allocated but not claimed.

In addition to this specific budget, the Department also supports faith groups by way of Section 64 grant funding. Since 2006-07, 19 applications were received from faith groups, of which one was funded.

Incontinence: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the progress that has been made towards achieving an integrated community-based paediatric continence service as set out in the Children's National Service Framework. [210530]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (the NSF) is a 10-year programme to shape the way local authorities and primary care trusts provide or commission services for children. Copies of the NSF are available in the Library. Increasingly, we will judge the work of the authorities involved on the degree to which they have met the standards set out in the NSF. However, it would not be appropriate to establish a formal review of the implementation of the standard on continence services half way through.

Incontinence: Females

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance for the management of urinary incontinence in women. [211540]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the management of female urinary incontinence.

Infectious Diseases: Prisoners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were tested for *(a)* HIV, *(b)* AIDS, *(c)* hepatitis A and *(d)* hepatitis B in each of the last three years. [211574]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Health Protection Agency collects surveillance data on infection with HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis viruses. However, if a prisoner is diagnosed with HIV or hepatitis, the fact that they are a prisoner at that time, or the specific prison in which they currently reside, is not routinely recorded on notifications.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on testing on arrival in prisons for *(a)* HIV, *(b)* AIDS, *(c)* hepatitis A and *(d)* hepatitis B; and how frequently such testing is conducted during the course of sentences. [211575]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer16 June 2008]:* Prisoners are not screened for infection with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis A or hepatitis B on reception in prisons.

Any prisoner concerned about the possibility of being infected with a blood borne virus or HIV can have a confidential discussion with a trained health practitioner in the prison, and, if they wish to be tested for infection, will have pre-test discussion, the test itself, and post-test discussion about the result. This is similar to the experience of any person requesting such a test in the community.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the treatment of prisoners for *(a)* HIV, *(b)* AIDS, *(c)* hepatitis A and *(d)* hepatitis B in each of the last three years. [211596]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Health care provision for prisoners in England is commissioned by local national health service primary care trusts (PCTs). It is a matter for PCTs to decide how funding allocated to them should be used to provide services for their local population.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the prison population *(a)* are HIV positive, *(b)* have AIDS, *(c)* have hepatitis A and *(d)* have hepatitis B. [211577]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

However, the prevalence of blood-borne virus (BBV) infection in injecting drug users (IDUs) in the community is used by the Department to estimate infection rates in prisoners.

Therefore, from the data on the prevalence of BBVs in current and former IDUs from the Unlinked Anonymous Prevalence Monitoring Programme (UAPMP) survey in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2006[1] the Department estimates that, at any one time in the prison estate, there are currently around 1,000 male and 60 female prisoners living with HIV infection; around 250 male and approximately 15 female prisoners with an AIDS-defining illness; and around 16,400 male and around 940 female prisoners living with Hepatitis B.

For Hepatitis A, in 2006, the total number of laboratory reports of Hepatitis A infection in England and Wales was 396. Therefore, the Department estimates that the number of acute Hepatitis A cases within the prison estate is currently very low.

[1] *Source:*

Health Protection Agency 2007 Injecting Drug Users Summary Statistics, available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoList Name/Page/1202115502904#f2

Mental Health Services: Pensioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the quality of mental health care for pensioners. [211287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 18 June 2008]:* We are improving mental health care for older people including pensioners through our new National Dementia Strategy and Implementation Plan, which will be out for consultation this month. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that significant improvements across three key areas in relation to dementia services: improved awareness; earlier diagnosis and intervention; and higher quality of care.

In addition to this, in 2006, we produced "Everybody's Business, Integrated Mental Health Services for Older Adults: A service development guide", which set out the key components of a comprehensive mental health service. Copies of the guide are available in the Library. Since April 2006, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) has rewarded general practitioner practices for maintaining a register of patients diagnosed with dementia and, more recently, the Care Services Improvement Partnership, our social care implementation arm, has been active in rolling out the Let's Respect campaign which provides guidance for general hospital staff on older people's mental health.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy in each of the last 10 years; [212430]

(2) what plans he has to fund research and clinical trials into Duchenne muscular dystrophy for the next three years. [212431]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. MRC spend on research relevant to Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	0.5
1998-99	0.5
1999-2000	0.6
2000-01	1.3
2001-02	2
2002-03	1.8
2003-04	2.4
2004-05	2.0
2005-06	2.1
2006-07	1.7

Much of the muscular dystrophy research supported by the MRC is on-going.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time, including a number concerned with DMD, are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

The Department has additionally provided £1.6 million for a four year project aimed at developing a new treatment for DMD; and through its Policy Research Programme is funding a £1.1 million long term neurological condition research initiative. One of the studies commissioned as part of the initiative is specifically concerned with DMD.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" and the establishment of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities. Two of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres formed last year—at Imperial College and at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and the Institute for Child Health—plan over the next five years to undertake research on DMD therapy.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the availability of new *(a)* drugs and *(b)* treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; [212432]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [212433]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent estimate of the number of people with this condition.

While there are several drugs undergoing clinical trials around the world, there are currently no drugs available for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

NHS: Reorganisation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation took place prior to the publication of the Next Stage Review Interim report; whom was consulted; and how they were selected. [210190]

Ann Keen: Prior to the publication of the interim report, "Our NHS, Our Future: NHS Next Stage Review" copies of which are available in the Library, Lord Darzi: visited and spoke to 1,500 national health service staff in 17 NHS organisations across the country;

> on 18 September 2007, took part in a nationwide day of detailed discussions on the priorities for the NHS with 1,000 patients, public and health and social care staff in nine different towns and cities;
>
> met with representatives of 250 stakeholder groups representing the full diversity of our population and staff;
>
> read more than 1,400 letters and e-mails from people up and down the country; and
>
> brought together over 2,000 clinicians to form clinical working groups in every part of the country to focus on discussing how best to plan and provide care for patients.

The interim report was based on these views, visits and discussions.

Each deliberative event on 18 September was attended by a regionally representative sample of members of the public (demographic data were taken from census data), with specific quotas set on health status (including use of certain services in the past two years). This ensured that there was a broad mix of members of the public, many of whom had used services and were in a position to give views based on their own experience of health care provision. Participants were recruited off the street, to ensure a wide representation of the public. Members of NHS staff were nominated to attend by their strategic health authority.

NHS: Telecommunications

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the contingency arrangements NHS trusts have made in the event that the supplier of their telecommunications infrastructure for patients is unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. [210378]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not party to the contracts made with any of the companies that provide the bedside telephone service to patients and it has not made an assessment of the contingency arrangements national health service trusts have in place, should their service provider be unable to fulfil its contractual obligations.

It is the responsibility of the NHS trust to consider contingency arrangements, should it wish to continue to provide this service to its patients.

The bedside telephone is an additional service to that which existed in the past so alternatives already exist in hospitals. It is still possible for relatives and friends to contact a hospital via its main switchboard, and then be transferred to the nurses' station on a ward to inquire about their relative's health, as they have always been able to do in the past.

Mobile phone usage is allowed in specified areas of the hospital and payphones also exist as an alternative for patients.

Obesity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index in (A) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (B) the Dacorum Borough Council area, (C) the East of England and (D) England at the latest date for which figures are available. [210143]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

Information on the percentage of children and adults who are obese or overweight in Hemel Hempstead constituency is not available.

Information on the percentage of children who are obese or overweight and the percentage of adults who are overweight, in Dacorum local authority, is not available.

A model-based estimate of the prevalence of adults who are obese in Dacorum local authority was not found to be statistically different than the national estimate. This information is shown in the following table.

Model-based estimates of obesity prevalence, 2003-05

	Percentage
Dacorum local authority	
Estimated prevalence of obesity	23.2
95 per cent. lower confidence interval	21.4
95 per cent. upper confidence interval	25.1
England [1]	
Estimated prevalence of obesity	23.6
95 per cent. lower confidence interval	23.0
95 per cent. upper confidence interval	24.2

[1] The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2003-05 (with Confidence Intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.

Source:

Model-Based Estimates Of Healthy Lifestyles Behaviours, 2003-05. Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Information on the proportion of children that are obese or overweight aged 4-5 and 10-11 years in East of England is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme and can be found in table B, page 38, National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results which was published on February 21 2008. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Information on the percentage of adults that are obese or overweight in East of England is collected through the Health Survey for England and can be found in table 5.3, page 99, Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 1 Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults, which was published on January 31 2008. This publication is available in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children aged 4-5 and 10-11 years that are obese or overweight in England is also collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and can be found in table 1, page 3, National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results.

Information on the percentage of adults that are obese or overweight in England is also collected through the Health Survey for England and can be found in table 5.2, page 98, Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 1 Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how his Department plans to measure the effectiveness of the Give and Let Live donor education programme; [210151]

(2) whether the Give and Let Live donor education programme is a pilot programme. [210152]

Ann Keen: The "Give and Let Live" teachers pack and website was developed in 2006-07, and piloted in some schools following consultation and evaluation. The pack was then offered to all secondary schools in September 2007. Further evaluation of the pack is currently underway.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 20 and *(b)* 21 to 25 years are included on the (i) British bone marrow register, (ii) NHS blood donor register and (iii) NHS organ donor register. [210153]

Ann Keen: NHS Blood and Transplant have provided information in the following table of the number of people aged 16-20 years and 21-25 years who are on the British Bone Marrow Register, registered to donate blood and on the Organ Donor Register.

	Number of people registered on the British bone marrow register
18 to 20 years[1]	1,460
21 to 25 years	20,830

[1] Minimum lower age to join registry is 18 years old.

	Number of people registered as blood donors (England North Wales)
17 to 20 years[1]	73,300
21 to 25 years	162,400

[1] Minimum lower age to join registry is 17 years old

	Number of people on organ donor register
16 to 20 years[1]	86,3361
21 to 25 years	1,378,685

[1] There is no lower age limit for joining registry.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what process was used for selecting the marketing company for the Give and Let Live donor education programme; [210154]

(2) how his Department plans to measure the performance of the marketing company for the Give and Let Live donor education programme. [210155]

Ann Keen: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) followed the Central Office of Information (COI) procurement procedures to tender for the Give and Let Live education pack and website. The process selected three agencies from the COI Official Journal of the European Union framework agreement. Each agency was invited to pitch to a panel consisting of representatives from NHSBT and COI. A specialist education agency was appointed.

NHSBT and COI regularly monitor the work of the specialist education agency to ensure it is following the project plan and continuing to meet the project objectives.

Independent evaluation of the Give and Let Live pack and website is currently underway.

Paramedical Staff

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of paramedics qualifying in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS. [212383]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

Up until this year ambulance trusts were responsible for training their workforce locally.

Respiratory System

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve the rates of early diagnosis for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [211826]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently considering advice from the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) External Reference Group on proposed markers of good practice from prevention through to end of life care. This advice will be considered by Ministers and options developed for implementation. These will include options for early diagnosis of people with COPD and raising awareness of the disease.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated direct cost to the NHS was of providing care for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [211828]

Ann Keen: Information by Region is not collected centrally.

For England[1], the latest estimate published is £492 million per annum for direct costs to national health service as at 2000-01.

Source:

[1] National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimate (based on Britton 2003, and using 2000-01 data). Further information is available at:

http://thorax.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/59/suppl_1/i192

Surgery

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of cases of post-operative bleeding after heart surgery operations *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of procedures performed in each of the last three years. [210221]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table.

Completed years data—Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery Great Britain and Ireland

	Cases	Post-op bleeding	Percentage of all cases
2004-05	27,871	1,447	3.82
2005-06	36,188	1,424	3.94
2006-07	35,792	1,509	4.22

Source:
Central Cardiac Audit Database

The Adult Cardiac Surgical module of the Central Cardiac Audit Database identifies bleeding when it requires re-operation post cardiac surgery. The precise definition in the dataset is 're-operation for bleeding or tamponade'.

Transplant Surgery

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplant operations there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* type of organ and *(b)* strategic health authority area; and how many viable human organs available under the NHS Organ Donor Register were not used for a transplant operation in each such year. [208218]

Ann Keen: The number of transplant operations carried out in each year since 1997, by organ type and strategic health authority (SHA), is shown in the following tables.

For information on the number of viable organs available under the NHS Organ Donor Register that were not used for a transplant operation, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1824W.

Organ transplants, United Kingdom, 1997 to 2007, by year and organ transplanted

Organ	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Kidney	1,666	1,583	1,581	1,671	1,691	1,658	1,697	1,821	1,739	1,911	2,011	19,029
Pancreas	9	0	3	0	6	8	12	10	15	25	51	139
Kidney/pancreas	21	22	31	32	41	52	42	69	102	138	196	746
Heart	264	261	227	204	166	158	148	165	146	156	129	2,024
Lung(s)	103	89	110	98	93	112	135	119	129	119	121	1,228
Heart/lungs	43	51	49	33	32	16	15	15	8	3	8	273
Liver	659	651	679	664	675	701	625	716	592	625	628	7,215
Other combinations	4	6	5	1	6	1	1	0	18	5	7	41
Total	2,779	2,676	2,695	2,709	2,717	2,717	2,683	2,930	2,747	2,999	3,161	30,813

Organ transplants, United Kingdom, 1997 to 2007 by year and SHA

Strategic health authority	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
East Midlands	96	96	84	104	93	122	80	102	102	101	120	1,100
East of England	207	228	211	197	223	191	207	245	205	250	216	2,380
London	821	766	771	751	782	751	722	819	698	880	900	8,661
North East	236	193	219	214	208	208	225	218	210	204	225	2,360
North West	230	245	245	280	248	230	248	270	276	304	255	2,831
South Central	168	113	135	159	113	119	127	134	166	170	227	1,631
South East coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South West	101	124	104	90	119	122	153	143	155	164	169	1,444
West Midlands	357	316	321	293	308	361	307	366	338	347	374	3,688
Yorkshire and the Humber	238	260	258	269	279	295	286	304	293	258	276	3,016
Wales	64	80	59	77	91	52	84	88	82	88	113	878
Scotland	190	238	248	232	216	216	199	183	192	189	244	2,357
Northern Ireland	51	27	40	43	37	50	45	58	30	44	42	467
Total	2,779	2,676	2,695	2,709	2,717	2,717	2,683	2,930	2,747	2,999	3,161	30,813

Waiting Lists: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median waiting time was for *(a)* an out-patient first appointment and *(b)* an in-patient appointment in (i) Bexley and (ii) Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [211602]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the median waiting time for an out-patient appointment and an in-patient appointment in Bexley care trust area and in the London strategic health authority (SHA) area at April 2008-09.

In-patient and out-patient median waits at April 2008-09

	Median wait (weeks)	
Organisation name	*Out-patient*	*In-patient*
Bexley Care Trust	2.7	4.9
London SHA	2.3	4.2

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Monitoring Return – Commissioner-based (April 2008-09).

Today, patients can expect a maximum 13-week wait for their first out-patient appointment and a maximum six-month wait for an operation from a decision to admit. These improvements are a result of a combination of record investment, the hard work of national health service staff and changes in the way the NHS works.

By December 2008, no one should have to wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate or they choose to wait longer. Delivery of the 18-week waiting time standard will reduce unnecessary delays and improve patients' experience of the whole journey.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue a response to the wheelchair services programme as part of the review of the efficiency care services delivery. [211979]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 17 June 2008]:* A substantial volume of data, with regard to wheelchair services has been collected and analysed through the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services (TCEWS) Programme to develop a business case for change.

The detailed business case is currently under consideration. The TCEWS Programme is working closely with senior executives in the national health service to agree the most appropriate way forward.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated to Afghanistan Growth Fund; and who its contributors are. [211737]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £30 million to the Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility (AICF, formerly the Afghanistan Growth Fund). Roshan Telecom, a private Afghan firm and the country's largest taxpayer, has committed US$100,000. Further private sector investment is expected as the AICF develops. Discussions with other donors are ongoing to finalise pledges.

Africa EU Strategic Partnership

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what commitments he has made to supporting the Africa EU Strategic Partnership. [211815]

Mr. Thomas: A comprehensive action plan to implement the joint Africa-European Union strategy was agreed at the EU Africa summit in Lisbon in December 2007. This plan has eight key themes, each with a set of priority actions to be taken forward through EU-Africa Partnerships. The UK Government are working with other member states and the African Union to ensure that sound progress is made in all areas. Plans are also in hand to ensure that civil society, both in Africa and Europe, is able to monitor progress and contribute ideas. Under arrangements agreed by member states, the UK Government are leading for the EU in co-ordinating the monitoring of progress against one of the key themes: the millennium development goals. An initial meeting of the European Commission and member states took place in Brussels on 28 May.

Africa: Borders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken by his Department to facilitate trade across borders in southern Africa. [211809]

Mr. Thomas: DFID works in southern Africa to make it easier, quicker, and cheaper to trade across borders through its Regional Trade Facilitation programme (RTFP). This is helping to raise economic growth rates, create jobs and reduce poverty in southern Africa. The RTFP, together with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), is implementing the following specific measures:

1. Opening three one-stop border posts in the region, between: Zambia and Zimbabwe; Mozambique and South Africa; and Lesotho and South Africa. These will reduce transit times for exports and imports, and bring down transport costs which will make Southern African producers more competitive.

2. Providing technical and financial assistance to address transport and transit bottlenecks in the region, particularly focusing on improving infrastructure and reducing unnecessary red tape.

3. Supporting COMESA, EAC and SADC to simplify and modernise customs procedures and legislation and to introduce a single administrative document for Customs.

Africa: Economic Growth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role the Investment Climate Facility has played in strengthening Africa's business environment since 2006; and what assessment he has made of the impact this has had on foreign direct investment in the region. [211814]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Investment Climate Facility (ICF) became fully operational mid-2007. By March 2008, 11 projects had been approved for ICF support. The ICF is already working in five countries and on two regional programmes. Extra information on activities of the ICF is available at

www.icfafrica.org.

It is too early to assess the impact of the work of the ICF on foreign direct investment flows.

Africa: Economic Situation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people living on less than one dollar a day in sub-Saharan Africa. [211816]

Gillian Merron: Around £300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were estimated to be living on less than one dollar a day in 2004[1].

[1] Most recent estimate available—source: Global Economic Prospects 2008, World Bank.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGEP2008/Resources/chapter-1.pdf

Africa: EU Water Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress the EU Water Initiative in Africa has made; and what the role of the UK Government has been in developing proposals for its reform. [211807]

Gillian Merron: The EU Water Initiative has helped a number of African countries prepare their own water and sanitation plans and has played a key role on creation of the EU Water Facility that makes funds available for water and sanitation. The total fund contributed by the European Commission to the EU Water Facility is €500 million. This will enable 20 million people to gain access to safe water and 9 million to improved sanitation.

The EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group, which the UK Government's Department for International Development currently co-chairs with France, Austria and the African Ministers Council for Water, (AMCOW) aims to improve coordination between donors, developing country governments and civil society organisations. The Africa Working Group has also played a key role in mapping member state contributions to water and sanitation in Africa. Through our involvement in the Africa Working Group, we have improved the EU's relationship with the AMCOW, to the extent that water will be a specific focus at the next meeting of the African Heads of State in July 2008.

A number of key policy reforms recommended in a DFID/German funded review of the EU Water Initiative were approved in August 2007. These reforms will result in greater focus on delivery in Africa and setting clear and measurable targets, which will help the EU Water Initiative to add real value and become more accountable to its stakeholders.

Africa: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle gender equality and promote the rights and political participation of women in Africa. [211823]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are supporting gender equality and women's rights in Africa through our dialogue with development partners, and through our country programmes working with governments and civil society. Gender is mainstreamed in our Country Action Plans and across all our programmes, with particular attention paid to sex disaggregated data and outcomes. Much of our work is focused on MDG 3 and includes an emphasis on women and girls' access to education, economic opportunities, public services, political participation and decision-making, and maternal mortality. The work that we do supports the Africa Union Africa Women's Protocol on Women's Rights, which a number of African governments have ratified.

The UK Government's Department for International Development is supporting a number of programmes to specifically promote the rights and political participation of women. More details of our work on political participation and gender can be found on our website in a publication called 'Governance, Development and Democratic Polities' which can be found at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/governance.pdf.

Additional information can be found at the Department for International Development's Gender Equality Plan at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/gender-equality-plan-2007.pdf

and an accompanying publication 'Gender Equality: At the Heart of Development' at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/gender-equality.pdf

Africa: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle HIV and AIDS in Africa; and what support in this area is being provided direct to governments of African developing countries. [211805]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development funds government, non-governmental and multilateral organisations to strengthen and deliver a wide range of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services across African countries. "Achieving Universal Access—the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" (2008-15) outlines UK action globally and highlights the need to prevent new HIV infections as well as maintain treatment for people living with HIV and AIDS. The strategy commits £6 billion to strengthening health systems and services until 2015, a significant proportion of which will be spent in Africa. A copy of the updated strategy and supporting evidence paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These are also available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

DFID provides direct support to national HIV and AIDS strategies and plans in a number of African countries via technical assistance and financing (eg Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria). DFID also provides funding towards HIV/AIDS in Africa via multilateral institutions, such as UNAIDS, WHO and the World Bank, and global funds. For example the UK has committed £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for Africa and other regions.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what process is followed for awarding contracts for aid projects in Africa; and what criteria are used for determining the best tender. [211707]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to fair, transparent, and open competition. All contracts above certain financial thresholds are tendered through international competition, in accordance with the EU Public Procurement directives and the code of good practice issued by the Office of Government Commerce. This involves:

publishing a contract notice in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU), allowing at least 37 days for the submission of expressions of interest;

issuing invitations to tender (ITTs), allowing at least 40 days for bidders to submit proposals;

evaluating proposals;

making decision of award; and

awarding the contract.

DFID selects the tender that offers best value for money based on an evaluation of criteria covering both technical and commercial aspects as set out in the invitation to tender letter.

DFID often uses suppliers that have been pre-qualified through competition to stand ready to provide services as required.

For contracts valued below £90,319, DFID may choose to run a mini-competition by inviting a number of suppliers to submit a proposal. Alternatively we may approach a contractor directly to undertake a specific piece of work.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what UK aid programmes are aimed at promoting good governance in African countries. [211708]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development's 2006 White Paper 'Making Governance Work for the Poor' put governance considerations at the heart of all UK aid programmes—a copy can be found at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/default.asp.

DFID works with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to produce Country Governance Analysis reports looking at the quality of governance in all major partner countries in Africa. These inform DFID programmes to improve governance through building state capability, improving accountability, and encouraging responsiveness to citizens, needs.

DFID has carefully targeted governance improvement programmes in all our focal countries in Africa. In 2007 DFID produced a publication titled 'Governance, Development and Democratic Politics: DFID's work in building more effective states'. This publication provides much more detail on our approach to governance and gives specific examples of programmes promoting good governance in our partner countries and can be found at

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/governance.pdf

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which contractors received funding from his Department in the 2007-08 financial year in relation to projects in Africa. [211719]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The following table contains the names of contractors who received funding from DFID during 2007-08 in relation to projects in Africa. This does not include payments made to contractors for low-value contracts issued by individual departments and overseas offices under delegated authority. These details are not held centrally and could not be produced without incurring disproportionate costs.

Adam Smith International Ltd
Allison George
Andrew Cordery
Andrew Lovegrove
Antonio Bojanic
Atos Consulting Limited
Barry Barnwell
Bearpark Associates
BMB Mott Macdonald
British Council
Cambridge Education Consultants
Cardiff And Vale Enterprise
Care International Uk
Centrex
Charles Kendall And Partners Limited
Chemonics
Chris Gale
Chris Rampe
Christopher Adam
Coffey International Development Ltd
OSU Cooker
Constella Futures
Cowi Mozambique
D P Russell
DAI Europe Limited
David Child
David Smith
Development In Practice
ECI Africa Consulting (PTY) LTD
Emerging Markets Group
Ernst And Young Ghana
Family Health International
Footbridge Consulting
FRR Ltd
Garlic (UK) Ltd
Gianni Brusati
GRM International Ltd
Harewelle International Limited
Health Partners International
Helm Corporation Ltd
Henry Vagg
HLSP Limited
HTSPE Ltd
I2i CONSULTANTS
Imani Development International Ltd
Intematical (PTY) Ltd
Interact Worldwide

Intermedia NCG
International Organisation Development
ITAD Ltd
JAN Consulting Ltd
John Olympio
Keith Biddle
Kolawole A Sofola
KPMG East Africa
KPMG Mozambique
Lisa Curtis Associates
Liverpool Associates in Trop. Health
LTS International Ltd
Malaria Consortium
Masdar (UK) Limited
Mokoro Limited
Moore Stephens LLP
Mr G and Mrd E Horlacher
Natural Resources Institute
Nordic Consultant
NPIA
Overseas Development Institute
Oxford Policy Management
Peter Mills
PKF
PLW Development Solutions Ltd
Population Services International
PricewaterhouseCoopers
PricewaterhouseCoopers Africa
Public Administration International
PricewaterhouseCoopers Portugal
RW England
REPIM
Rosemary Bellow
Saana Consulting Ltd
Social Development Direct Ltd
SRK Consultancy
The British Council Sudan
The Crown Agents For Overseas Administrations And Governments Ltd
The Environment And Development Group
Triple Line Consulting Ltd
University College London
University Of Wolverhampton
Uganda Telecom Ltd
Vincent De Boer
W S Atkins International Ltd
Wendy Thomson
Wild Dog Ltd
Witek Nowosielski
WSP International Limited

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the £200 million emergency response aid for Africa in 2007-08 was distributed. [211803]

Mr. Thomas: The figures showing the distribution of the 2007-08 humanitarian contributions in Africa are not yet available.

Africa: Politics and Government

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote good governance amongst pan-African institutions. [211797]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working to support the efforts of pan-African institutions to improve their internal governance and to promote governance on the continent. DFID is providing support to the Pan-African Parliament to strengthen its financial and human resource systems, and to the African Union Commission to establish efficient and transparent fund handling processes.

DFID is working with pan-African institutions to improve governance on the continent in a variety of ways, including providing over £1 million to the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat Trust Fund, which supports the running of this important continental governance programme of the African Union. DFID has engaged the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa, a South African-based NGO, to assist the African Union Commission and Pan-African Parliament to improve their election monitoring capacity. DFID is also assisting the African Development Bank, through a £1 million programme, to improve the quality of the governance support the bank offers its African member countries.

Africa: Regional Trade Facilitation Program

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme on fair-trade exports in southern Africa since 2005. [211810]

Mr. Thomas: As a result of the work carried out by the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP), smallholder's market access on fair terms, for many commodities, has improved. More small scale producers are benefiting, and export volumes are rising, both to South African and international markets. For example, the exports of organic groundnuts to Europe increased from zero to 126 metric tonnes between 2005 and 2007; and South Africa's tea imports from Tanzania increased by 600 tonnes between 2005 and 2006.

African Development Bank

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take in conjunction with the African Development Bank to improve the regional infrastructure in the region in partnership with the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. [211808]

Gillian Merron: In December 2007, the UK Government's Department for International Development contributed £417 million to the African Development Fund of the African Development Bank and became its largest donor. Infrastructure financing is predicted to reach more than $5 billion under the African Development Fund 2008-10 and the amount available to be committed to regional projects will increase from 15 per cent. to 17.5 per cent. of total funding.

In 2007, DFID also doubled its funding to the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa Secretariat hosted at the African Development Bank in 2007, including providing a secondee. DFID is also supporting other initiatives to help the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa be effective, helping leverage increased financing from others. DFID committed £6 million to the Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility hosted at the African Development Bank to help get regional infrastructure in Africa ready for financing. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa is making good progress. Its annual report for 2007, soon to be published, will show that funding by its members increased by 54 per cent. to $11.9 billion in 2007, up from $7.7 billion in 2006.

DFID committed £7 million to the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund in 2007. DFID nominated the African Development Bank to take up its position on the Project Financiers Group of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund. This will help with African ownership and improve co-ordination between EU member states and the African Development Bank.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what industrial sectors in Bangladesh are receiving aid under a millennium development goal banner. [211738]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Department for International Development (DFID) support to industrial sectors in Bangladesh is aimed at creating stronger private sector growth that directly benefits the poor, under the Millennium Development Goal banner of halving poverty by 2015. In partnership with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), the UK is co-funding the South Asian Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF), which in Bangladesh provides aid to the light engineering sector via small foundries and steel mills; the ready-made garments industry; and the poultry industry. These industries are highly labour intensive, offering huge potential for poverty eradication through employment generation for the poor.

Bangladesh: Storms

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what organisations his Department engaged to disperse relief supplies in Bangladesh after Cyclone Sidr in 2007. [211637]

Mr. Malik: UK assistance for relief supplies after Cyclone Sidr was channelled through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). DFID also provided some relief items in kind, from its stocks in Dubai. These items were disbursed by HelpAge, CARE Bangladesh, Oxfam, Save the Children, and BR[illegible] (Building Resources Across Communities). Full details of UK support following Cyclone Sidr can be found on the DFID website: www.dfid.gov.uk.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his ASEAN counterparts on the humanitarian response to the situation in Burma. [204758]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since the outset of the humanitarian crisis in Burma, the UK has engaged in intensive diplomatic exchanges with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries. In the weeks following the cyclone I have both spoken to and met with ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan several times, and the Foreign Secretary liaised closely with his counterparts in the ASEAN region, speaking with his Malaysian, Thai, Indonesian and Singaporean counterparts. Lord Malloch-Brown and the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik) pressed the need for access during their visit to the region on 17 May 2008. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spoke with her Vietnamese counterpart and has raised the issue with the Governments of Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines directly. In addition, all our embassies across South East Asia have been stressing the need for a concerted international humanitarian response to the crisis in their contacts with host Governments.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to ensure that aid for those affected by the Burmese cyclone has reached the most severely affected areas; and if he will make a statement. [211180]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The main objective of the multi-agency humanitarian effort in response to Cyclone Nargis is to reach all affected populations as quickly as possible. The aid operation is scaling-up all the time. The UK is delivering its aid through United Nations, non-governmental organisation (NGO) and Red Cross partners, who have expanding coverage in the affected areas. More than £10 million of UK funds have been allocated to NGOs. They are working closely with local authorities to identify the worst affected populations and to reach them with clean fresh drinking water, sanitation facilities, basic health care and emergency shelter and agricultural assistance in the Delta.

The UK has given £5 million to the United Nations for their logistics operation to ensure that the UN has adequate helicopters, boats, ships and trucks to transport aid into and around Burma, to the most hard-hit areas of the country. Additionally we have directly provided 14 flat-bottomed boats which are operating to good effect to deliver supplies to remote parts of the Delta.

The UK is also working closely with the UN and ASEAN countries to press the Burmese Government to open better access to the Delta. Whilst access is still not good enough, increasing numbers of international staff and assistance are beginning to reach those in the worst affected areas. Progress however remains fragile and could be reversed.

China: Africa

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department plans to encourage China to support development in Africa. [211798]

Mr. Thomas: The huge growth in China's trade and investment in recent years are providing new opportunities for Africa. China is now a major world economic power and a growing and important partner for many African countries. Over the last three years my Department, in partnership especially with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), has been building a strong relationship with China on a range of development issues, including Africa. We believe it is important for China and the UK to work together to support the achievement of the millennium development goals, particularly in Africa.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) plans include: (i) encouraging China to work with other international development partners and join or endorse international initiatives that improve the effectiveness of international support to Africa; (ii) exchanging knowledge and experience on development assistance so that both sides can improve the quality of their support; (iii) identifying specific areas where we can work together such as in rural roads in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and (iv) exploring how the UK and China can ensure that the outcomes from high level global meetings, such as the UN MDG Call to Action meeting in September, accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211764]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to provide this information as we do not keep separate records of numbers of chairs, desks and other office furnishings purchased, and to provide this data would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what independent inquiries have been commissioned by his Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212319]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No independent inquiries have been undertaken by the Department for International Development in the last five years.

Departmental Postal Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on sending mail overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by delivery company. [208519]

Gillian Merron: DFID does not separately identify routine post items sent overseas via the Royal Mail. However, the majority of our post to our overseas offices is sent using the Foreign and Commonwealth Office bag service, and the sums paid for this have been as follows:

	£
2001-02	16,000
2002-03	27,000
2003-04	126,000
2004-05	227,000
2005-06	203,000
2006-07	33,000
2007-08	32,000

The aforementioned amounts represent the financial year in which FCO charged DFID for the service, not necessarily the year in which the items were sent. It also includes heavy items rather than normal mail, but these cannot be separately identified.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 657-60W, on departmental public participation, what steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned as a result of each piece of work listed. [210927]

Gillian Merron: Information on the past and planned use of each piece of audience research detailed in the previous answer is as follows.

Research work	*Steps taken*	*Steps planned*
Solutions Strategy Research (April to June 2007)	Analysis used to inform development of communications activity around ethical consumerism activity around ethical consumerism in February 2008.	This research provides useful insight into consumers current knowledge and understanding of shopping ethically and how this may have an impact on people's livelihoods within developing countries. The analysis will continue to inform future communications activity.
Ipsos MORI (March to May 2008)	Analysis not yet complete.	Analysis will form basis of an audience segmentation model to inform, direct and provide a basis for communications on the work of DFID. This is in line with Government communications best practice.
GfK NOP (March to June 2008)	Analysis not yet complete.	Trend data will inform, direct and provide a basis for communications on the work of DFID aimed at young people.

Developing Countries: Borders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what joint working his Department has undertaken with COMESA and USAID to strengthen border controls of developing countries which are vulnerable to petty corruption. [211796]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is working through its Regional Trade Facilitation Programme (RTFP) to strengthen border controls by setting up three one stop border posts (OSPBs) between: Zambia and Zimbabwe; Mozambique and South Africa; and Lesotho and South Africa. The RTFP is partnering with the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to set up these OSBPs.

The OSBPs will replace border processing facilities (for incoming and outgoing traffic) on either side of two countries with a single border control management system and better scanning facilities. A major benefit is that the multiple bureaucratic requirements that currently provide opportunities for corruption are also reduced.

USAID, through its Trade Hub in Gaborone (Botswana), is also working to strengthen border controls. Their current focus is on improving the Trans Kalahari (Nambia, Botswana and South Africa) and the Maputo (Mozambique and South Africa) development corridors. DFID does not have a formal collaboration with USAID, but we do regularly exchange information on our trade facilitation activities.

Developing Countries: Children

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to support progress on Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, relating to child mortality and maternal health, at the June European Council. [211885]

Mr. Thomas: In response to UK lobbying, the EU agreed at the recent General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) to prepare an EU "Agenda for Action" on the MDGs for the June European Council. The UK has been working hard to secure an ambitious document with specific targets, milestones and financial commitments in key areas including health. This agenda is now nearing finalisation and the current text includes several EU targets on maternal health and child mortality, including ensuring 21 million more births are attended by skilled personnel by 2010.

We will be urging EU member states to endorse the Agenda for Action at the June European Council, and for this to be reflected in the Council Conclusions. By setting a high standard at the Council, the EU will create the momentum for other countries to do more at the G8 and UN meetings later this year, particularly the UN Secretary-General's MDG summit in September.

Emerging Africa Infrastructure Facility

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Facility to the development of economic infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa. [211811]

Mr. Thomas: The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) has committed to lend US $300 million, of which US $60 million represents equity provided by DFID, for a number of investments in economic infrastructure and improved services in sub-Saharan Africa. These loans are helping to mobilise more than US $5 billion of private investment to deliver port, energy and agricultural facilities as well as improved electricity and communications services for more than three million people in Africa. The performance of EAIF was recently assessed, together with other private sector infrastructure investment facilities supported by DFID, in an independent review commissioned by DFID's evaluation team. Evaluation Report EV684, March 2008 is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/performance/files/ev684.pdf

Ethiopia: Economic Situation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken to tackle food shortages and poverty in Ethiopia in the last two years. [211822]

Gillian Merron: In 2006-07 and 2007-08 the Department for International Development provided assistance amounting to £231 million to Ethiopia. We focus our efforts on three main areas, in support of the Ethiopian government's efforts to reduce poverty: improving governance, promoting human development, and encouraging sustainable growth. Since 2005 DFID has contributed £91 million to the Productive Safety Net Programme, which provides cash and food to some seven million people who face food shortages every year, in exchange for participation in public works. We also provided £7 million in response to emergency appeals.

This year, Ethiopia is struggling to cope with the combined effects of high food prices and a poor rainy season and the latest available figures indicate that a further 4.6 million people will need emergency food aid from June to September this year. In 2008, DFID has given £[illegible] million to the UN-managed Humanitarian Response Fund for humanitarian operations in Ethiopia, and is planning to give a further £10 million in response to the worsening situation.

Ethiopia: Food Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of the number of people in Ethiopia dependent on food aid; and if he will make a statement. [211183]

Gillian Merron: The latest available figures indicate that 4.6 million people will need emergency food aid from June to September this year. This is in addition to the 7.2 million people in Ethiopia who face food shortages every year, and who receive support through the Ethiopian Government's Productive Safety Net Programme, to which the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) is a major contributor providing £91 million since 2005.

In 2008, DFID has also given £5 million to the UN-managed Humanitarian Response Fund for humanitarian operations in Ethiopia, and is planning to give a further £10 million in response to the worsening situation.

Ethiopia: Unemployment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to tackle unemployment in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [211821]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's work in Ethiopia is focused on three main areas: improving governance, promoting human development, and encouraging sustainable growth. Through the Productive Safety Net Programme cash or food is provided for vulnerable households in exchange for temporary employment on public works. In addition, our contribution to the Protection of Basic Services programme enables the Ethiopian Government to pay the salaries of staff working in health and education.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on the Fair Trade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this expenditure was on Fair Trade products. [211561]

Mr. Thomas: The amounts spent on hospitality for meetings for the last three years are as follows:

	£
2005-06	190,826
2006-07	189,332
2007-08	177,425

Precise figures for the proportion of the above which is Fairtrade are not available, but based on value it is estimated that it represents around 35 per cent.

Iraq: Utilities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to Southern Iraq to improve infrastructure for the supply of water and power. [212703]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on Wednesday 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W.

Malawi: Health Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on improving health care, and access to health care, in Malawi since 2005. [211820]

Gillian Merron: By the end of June 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) will have spent approximately £55.5 million on improving health and access to health care in Malawi since 2005. This includes £7 million of DFID general budget support allocated by the Government of Malawi to improving health care; £40,475,323 of direct support to the Ministry of Health; and £8,176,835 to non-governmental organisations to provide services and technical assistance. In addition, DFID has provided £4,510,606 to the National AIDS Commission (NAC) to scale up HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, management and support.

In 2005 to 2011, the UK has committed a total of £100 million support to the health sector programme in Malawi. Additionally, £14 million has been committed to support the National AIDS Commission (NAC) to scale up interventions in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and management.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be published. [211986]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All of the Department for International Development's independent evaluations are published at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Mozambique: Floods

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means his Department monitors the effectiveness of its contribution to the government of Mozambique resettlement fund for relocation of those at risk from flooding. [211799]

Gillian Merron: Two advisers from the Department for International Development's office in Mozambique visited the disaster area in June to monitor the effectiveness of its contribution to the government of Mozambique Resettlement Fund for relocation of those at risk from flooding. DFID officials assessed the capacity of the government's disaster response unit in Caia, met with communities affected by floods on both sides of the Zambezi river, inspected infrastructure under construction, e.g. access to roads, railway and bridges, evaluated water management, irrigation and agricultural investment and discussed progress with NGOs working in the region .

Nepal: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided in humanitarian and development aid to the health sector in Nepal in the last 10 years; and what projects have been supported by such funding. [211638]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Over the last decade, DFID has provided £64,176,124 to the health sector in Nepal. Of this, £62,076,907 has been provided for development through longer term projects and programmes which support the public sector delivery of services. The remaining £2,099,217 was provided for humanitarian projects which were short term and were mainly delivered by non-government providers. The following programmes have been supported:

Name of programme	*Duration of programme*	*Amount spent to date (£)*
Ongoing programmes		
Nepal Health Sector Programme	July 2004 to July 2009	17,284,378
Support to Safe Motherhood Programme	December 2004 to December 2009	10,935,165

Name of programme	*Duration of programme*	*Amount spent to date (£)*
National HIV/AIDS Programme	October 2004 to October 2009	7,620,000
Completed projects (i) funded from the bilateral programme		
Support to National TB Programme	January 2001 to January 2007	5,416,000
Reproductive Health programme	April 1997 to April 2006	8,519,411
Nepal Health and Population Development Programme	June 1999 to December 2004	316,854
Support to UNICEF Health Project	February 2003 to December 2004	200,000
Polio Eradication Programme	January 2002 to December 2004	3,063,257
Safe Motherhood Project	March 1997 to October 2004	5,356,427
District Health Strengthening Project	January 1999 to October 2004	3,365,415
Completed projects (ii) funded from Global Conflict prevention programme: humanitarian assistance		
Support to Health Services	August 2003 to January 2005	114,214
Strengthening Health Services in Conflict Areas	August 2002 to November 2004	1,985,003

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent in Nepal to support child health interventions through the Ministry of Health. [211727]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £16.26 million to the Nepalese Ministry of Health and Population's Child Health Programme since 2005. In addition, DFID funds a major Safe Motherhood programme which has provided £4.9 million earmarked budget support since 2006.

Nile Basin Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the impact of the Nile Basin Initiative in the region; and what the role of his Department was in implementing this initiative. [211813]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Through its projects across Nile Basin, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is building greater awareness of the need for and benefits of cooperative development. The investment projects under preparation include flood protection, watershed management, and power sharing.

The NBI is assessed annually by all funding partners. The last meeting was in April 2008. We concluded that the NBI is making good progress to build regional cooperation to better manage the water resources of the Nile. This is essential to tackle poverty, enable growth and maintain peace in the region, as well as for climate change adaptation.

DFID engages with the NBI on a regular basis to support implementation and to review progress. In recognition of our commitment to achieving Nile cooperation and the ongoing success of the NBI, we recently doubled our financing to the NBI, now with a total commitment of £14 million.

DFID also supports civil society engagement in the NBI, through the Nile Basin Discourse. This aims to bring greater voice and accountability to the Government led development process.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason 3 per cent. of the scheduled poverty reduction budget for 2007 was not disbursed; and what has happened to those funds. [211722]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the predictability of DFID Poverty Reduction Budget Support in 2007 are available in Table 5.5, page 96 of the DFID publication 'Development: Making it Happen', DFID's 2008 Annual Report. This publication is available online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

or from the Library.

Any funds not disbursed to partner governments were reallocated to other programmes.

Overseas Aid: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide information that shows how UK civil society concerns are reflected in his Department's aid effectiveness work and preparations for the HLF in accordance with the dialogue his Department has with UK Advocacy Network. [211705]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has regular dialogue with the UK Aid Network (UKAN) to ensure their concerns feed into our policy and action and that these concerns are reflected in our work to improve aid effectiveness in line with the Paris Declaration.

In preparation for the High Level Forum, we are supporting the involvement of civil society through research, advocacy and participation at Accra. This includes funding seminars to raise awareness and debate about aid effectiveness issues.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what definition he uses of corporate priority in referring to improving aid effectiveness. [211716]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Corporate priorities are identified through the business planning process. The corporate priorities are then included in the Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs). Two of DFID's seven DSOs are about aid effectiveness, demonstrating the priority DFID attaches to it. They are Departmental Strategic Objective No. 5. (To make all bilateral and multilateral donors more effective); and Departmental Strategic Objective No. 6. (To deliver high quality and effective bilateral development assistance).

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been allocated to national health programmes in Pakistan for reducing child mortality. [211726]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £83.5 million in support of the national health facility over the last five years (2003-08). The funds have contributed to reducing child mortality by supporting programmes to improve immunisation; nutrition; malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS control; and family planning. In total it is estimated our support has helped prevent the deaths of 200,000 children.

In addition in 2006 we committed £90 million over five years to Pakistan's National Maternal and Newborn Health Programme. Not only will this improve maternal health and welfare and prevent maternal deaths, but it is also estimated it will save the lives of 100,000 newborn children.

Sierra Leone: Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's study on the relationship of social policy issues, gender equality, social inclusion and effectiveness in Sierra Leone. [211718]

Gillian Merron: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's study on the relationship of social policy issues, gender equality, social inclusion and effectiveness in Sierra Leone was undertaken in Sierra Leone during November and December 2007, with the final report being presented in January 2008.

The Government of Sierra Leone have not undertaken any formal assessment of progress of the study as a whole so far. However, there have been assessments of progress in some specific areas. Of particular note are the campaigns to encourage more women to vote in the up coming local elections, and to stand as candidates (partly funded by DFID under an umbrella programme Promoting Voice and Transparency on Elections, PIVOT). Although the figures will not be known until after the elections, the number of women candidates standing (16.5 per cent.) is nearly double that of last time (9 per cent.).

In the five months since the study's launch, the Government agency that has responsibility for the monitoring of the study (the Development Assistance Co-ordination Office, DACO) has been focused on finalising two strategic processes:

1. Completing the overall Survey of the Paris Declaration (February and March 2008). This is the strategic process which regularly monitors aid effectiveness issues in partner countries.

2. The production of a new Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, PRSP, which is the National Development Strategy monitored under Indicator One of the Paris Declaration Survey.

South Asia: HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what organisations his Department is supporting to fight HIV and AIDS infection in the South Asia region; and how much these organisations received in 2007-08. [211732]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Within the South Asia region, DFID supported the fight against HIV and AIDS in India, Nepal and Pakistan during 2007-08.

In India, £21.6 million was provided to the National AIDS Control Organisation, and a further £5.6 million to various organisations including UNAIDS, the BBC World Service Trust, and a range of local NGOs.

In Nepal, £2.1 million was provided to the National Centre for AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control, and to a range of local NGOs through UNDP.

In Pakistan £1 million was provided to the National AIDS Control Programme, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and UNAIDS.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely humanitarian effect of changes announced on 10 June 2008 to the World Food Programme Humanitarian Service in Sudan. [211546]

Mr. Thomas: Our initial assessment is that the flight changes announced by the World Food Programme's Humanitarian Air Service will not adversely affect the front-line work of the humanitarian operation in Darfur. The reductions in the helicopter service still represent an increase from 2007. Other flight changes affect connections between the capital Khartoum and the South. Although these will not have a significant impact on humanitarian operations, they will affect the frequency with which aid workers can travel to regional hubs.

UNICEF Go To School Campaign

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK made to the UNICEF "Go to" School Campaign. [211802]

Mr. Thomas: In March 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £1.2 million to UNICEF Sudan for the "Go to School" programme. DFID is very happy to support this important initiative which has seen a significant increase in school attendance in Southern Sudan since its inception two years ago.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed in Downing Street's House Management Team. [210718]

Mr. Watson: Ten.

10 Downing Street: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list each of Downing Street's preferred suppliers, indicating in each case the suppliers' specialism. [210850]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office is part of the Cabinet Office.

In line with Government procurement policy, the Cabinet Office selects its suppliers through competition unless there are justifiable reasons to do otherwise, taking account of value for money. Many of its suppliers are awarded contracts under pan-government framework agreements which have been competed through the EU advertising procedures. Information on suppliers' specialisms is not held centrally and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Central Office of Information: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who the Central Office of Information's preferred suppliers are; what the specialism of each is; and what mechanism was used to select them. [210899]

Mr. Watson: The Central Office of Information has over 800 suppliers listed on our website, www.coi.gov.uk, covering 31 frameworks set up in line with EU procurement directives. Information on suppliers' specialisms is not held centrally and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance governs the use by former Ministers of air miles incurred from ministerial travel for personal travel once they leave office. [210902]

Phil Hope: Guidance relating to the use of air miles for official travel is set out in the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, on departmental contracts, what the purpose of each such project in relation to each firm was. [210965]

Phil Hope: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 687W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central, (Jim Cousins).

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the Information Commissioner's Freedom of Information Good Practice Guidance Note no. 4 on time limits on consideration of the public interest; and if he will make a statement. [210960]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office aims to respond to all Freedom of Information requests within 20 working days. In some cases the consideration of the public interest takes longer and in these instances a response is given within such time as is reasonable in the circumstances, as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information was requested in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests to the Cabinet Office with case references *(a)* FS50077719 (received 2 June 2005), *(b)* FS50085720 (11 August 2005), *(c)* FS50086426 (17 August 2005), *(d)* FS50088735, (14 September 2005), (e) FS50088745, (14 September 2005), *(f)* FS50089369 (21 September 2005), *(g)* FS50090742, (6 October 2005), *(h)* FS50091011 (10 October 2005), *(i)* FS50097905 (6 December 2005) and *(j)* FS50098388 (8 December 2005). [211071]

Edward Miliband: The Information Commissioner has issued a Decision Notice for FS50090742: 'The assessment by the Joint Intelligence Committee of Iraq's declaration of its weapons of mass destruction in December 2002'. The Decision Notice is available on the Information Commissioner's website at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/decisionnotices/2008/fs_50090742.pdf

and a copy has been placed in the House for the reference of Members.

Decision notices on the other requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2006, will be published in due course by the Information Commissioner.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications the Cabinet Office has submitted in the last 24 months. [210901]

Phil Hope: Information on planning applications made by the Cabinet Office can be found on the Westminster city council website:

http://www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/planning/applications/search/.

The Cabinet Office has not made any licensing applications in the last 24 months.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Cabinet Office purchase orders are recorded in an electronic database. [210876]

Phil Hope: Cabinet Office purchase orders are recorded in an electronic database.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* job title, *(b)* function and *(c)* role Nicola Burdett has in No. 10 Downing street. [210961]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when Nicola Burdett began work at 10 Downing street; what her job title is; and who her line manager is. [211674]

Mr. Watson: Nicola Burdett is appointed to No.10 as a special adviser. Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what records his Department holds of *(a)* air miles, and similar promotional travel schemes provided to civil servants in the Cabinet Office in respect of travel paid for from the public purse and *(b)* the subsequent use of such benefits. [211126]

Phil Hope: If Cabinet Office staff receive air miles or similar promotions as a result of travel on official business, they are either used for future official travel, or, if this is not possible, they are donated to a charity of the travel operator's choice.

Dorneywood: Official Hospitality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers have used Dorneywood for departmental functions or events since June 2007. [210875]

Phil Hope: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 939W.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1962W, on Dorneywood, if he will place in the Library the guidance issued to Ministers on the use and availability of Dorneywood for Government meetings and seminars. [210950]

Phil Hope: Guidance on the use of official residences is set out in the "Ministerial Code". Dorneywood is held in Trust for use as an official residence, as has been the case under successive administrations. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the use of Dorneywood as an official residence. The Chancellor and the Trustees have now made Dorneywood available to other Ministers to use for official engagements.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information last updated their euro changeover plans; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [211114]

Phil Hope: A copy of the most recent version of the Cabinet Office's euro changeover plan has been placed in the Library of the House. The Central Office of Information is currently formulating its euro changeover plan which is intended for publication at the end of July 2008.

Electoral Register: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the qualifying population are registered as electors in *(a)* each local authority in the north-west and *(b)* Warrington. [212308]

Mr. Watson: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions asking what percentage of the qualifying population are registered as electors in (a) each local authority in the North West and (b) Warrington. (212308).

Table 1 gives the number of people who are registered to vote in the local/European elections as a percent of the "estimated usually resident population" age 18 and over, for each local authority in the North West (and Warrington), for 2006.

These percentages provide the closest available approximation to the registration rates that you requested. However they should not be interpreted as the percentage of the eligible population who are registered to vote. Not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote, for example foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth are not eligible.

The figures used are for the local/ European electorate because the eligibility criteria are closer to the definition of the usually resident population than those for the parliamentary electorate (EU citizens are included and UK citizens resident abroad are excluded).

For some areas rates exceed one hundred per cent as figures for the registered electorate may be inflated. People who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died).

The limitations described above affect areas in different ways. This limits comparability of these figures across local authorities.

The figures provided are for the most recent year that estimates of the usually resident population are available. Electoral statistics for December 2007 are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme other/UK_Electoral Statistics_2007.xls

Table 1: The local/European electorate as a percentage of the "estimated usually resident population" aged 18+ for each local authority in the North West and Warrington.

Area	*Percentage Mid-2006*[1, 2, 3]
North West	97
Blackburn with Darwen UA	100
Blackpool UA	99
Halton UA	100
Warrington UA	98
Cheshire	
Chester	97
Congleton	100
Crewe and Nantwich	97
Ellesmere Port and Neston	99
Macclesfield	102
Vale Royal	99
Cumbria	
Allerdale	96

Table 1: The local/European electorate as a percentage of the "estimated usually resident population" aged 18+ for each local authority in the North West and Warrington.

Area	*Percentage Mid-2006*[1, 2, 3]
Barrow-in-Furness	93
Carlisle	99
Copeland	99
Eden	99
South Lakeland	97
Greater Manchester (Met. County)	
Bolton	100
Bury	98
Manchester	91
Oldham	92
Rochdale	98
Salford	94
Stockport	99
Tameside	94
Trafford	95
Wigan	99
Lancashire	
Burnley	99
Chorley	98
Fylde	98
Hyndburn	96
Lancaster	92
Pendle	95
Preston	92
Ribble Valley	98
Rossendale	101
South Ribble	100
West Lancashire	101
Wyre	98
Merseyside (Met. County)	
Knowsley	95
Liverpool	93
St. Helens	98
Sefton	97
Wirral	99

[1] Figures for the local/European electorate are those registered to vote if an election had been held on 1 December 2006 and refer to a qualifying date of 15 October 2006.

[2] The estimated usually resident population are the mid-year population estimates for 30 June 2006

[3] Registration rates exceed 100 per cent. where the registered electorate exceed the estimated population of an area.

Source:
Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 592W, on the Fairtrade initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this total was spent on Fairtrade products. [211566]

Phil Hope: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Cabinet Office's policy is on requiring purchase orders to be submitted before expenditure is made. [210856]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office's purchasing policy requires that purchase orders are submitted before expenditure is made for purchases over £500.

Heads of Government Summit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the attendees of the Heads of Government summit held on 5 April. [211793]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The Heads of Government and international organisations who attended the Progressive Governance Summit on 5 April were:

The right hon. Gordon Brown—Prime Minister
His Excellency Kevin Rudd—Prime Minister, Australia
His Excellency Alfred Gusenbauer—Chancellor, Austria
Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet—President, Chile
His Excellency Mr. Dimitris Christofias—President, Cyprus
His Excellency Mr. John Kufuor—President, Ghana
His Excellency Romano Prodi—Prime Minister, Italy
Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf—President, Liberia
His Excellency Mr. Gediminas Kirkilas—Prime Minister, Lithuania
Her Excellency Helen Clark—Prime Minister, New Zealand
His Excellency Jens Stoltenberg—Prime Minister, Norway
His Excellency Mr. Robert Fico—Prime Minister, Slovakia
His Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki—President, South Africa
The right hon. Peter Mandelson—European Commissioner for Trade
His Excellency Mr. Javier Solana—EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy
The hon. Bill Clinton—Clinton Foundation
Mr. Dominique Strauss-Kahn—International Monetary Fund
Mr. Antonio Guterres—UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Mr. Kemal Dervis—UN Development Programme
Mr. Pascal Lamy—World Trade Organisation
Dr. Donald Kaberuka—African Development Bank.

A final comprehensive list of all audience members who attended the summit is not available.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on ministerial policy advisers, to which former special advisers the Cabinet Office has *(a)* granted and *(b)* withheld approval to take up an outside appointment on leaving post in (i) the Prime Minister's Office and (ii) the Cabinet Office since May 2005. [211104]

Edward Miliband: Personal information about the applications submitted by special advisers, and other Crown servants, is made public only in accordance with the principles and practices followed in the operation of the Business Appointment Rules. This information, which includes details of the appointments of the most senior staff and statistical data about cases at the more junior levels, is published on the website of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (www.acoba.gov.uk) and in its reports.

Political Office: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff have worked in the Downing Street Political Office in each year since 1996-97. [210874]

Mr. Watson: Staff in the Political Office are not employees of the Cabinet Office and therefore records of staff numbers are not held.

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 18WS, on Public Bodies 2007, for what reason the latest edition of Public Bodies does not publish detailed information on the size and expenditure of each individual non-departmental public body. [211078]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies" continues to provide headline information on the size, expenditure and membership of the non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) sector. It is now the responsibility of individual sponsor Departments to publish detailed information on their NDPBs on an annual basis.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1308W, on television, in what room in Downing street the television purchased was installed. [210962]

Phil Hope: The television was installed in Downing street Offices.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 20 June 2008

TRANSPORT

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210986]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The chart of accounts for 2008-09, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House, reflects the Department's structure for that year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* chairs, *(b)* desks and *(c)* other office furnishings have been purchased by her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each case. [211763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally. It has been estimated that, due to the broad scope of this question and the decentralised and devolved structure of the Department, to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs. However, the information that is available is set out in the table below. This does not include in all cases information on specific categories of purchase as this is not recorded centrally.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has replaced approximately 1,450 workstations per year over the last three years (April 2005 - March 2008) as part of a rolling refurbishment programme of the main headquarters site in Swansea. Each workstation includes a desk, chair, three drawer pedestal, back screen and monitor arm. Cost information is commercially confidential.

Records of furniture purchased by the DVLA prior to this are not available.

Data for the following Department for Transport organisational units is not available in the requested format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost:

DfT Central:

London Headquarters buildings,

Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

Executive Agency:

Maritime and Coastguard Agency,

Vehicle Certification Agency and

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

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			DfT Central			*Executive Agency*		
			Ashdown House, Hastings	*Air Accidents Investigations Branch*	*Rail Accident Investigation Branch (see note 1)*	*Driving Standards Agency*	*Government Car and Despatch Agency*	*Highways Agency*
2003-04	a) Chairs	Quantity	2	—	—	—	—	—
		Cost	390	—	—	—	—	—
	b) Desks	Quantity	0	—	—	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	—	—	—	—
	c) Other	Quantity	0	—	—	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	Quantity	2	—	—	—	—	—
		Cost	390	9,391	—	63,000	8,3[illegible]8	65,630
2004-05	a) Chairs	Quantity	20	—	121	—	—	—
		Cost	10,700	—	14,844	—	—	—
	b) Desks	Quantity	210	—	37	—	—	—
		Cost	61,000	—	12,716	—	—	—
	c) Other	Quantity	315	—	255	—	—	—
		Cost	54,300	—	26,969	—	—	—
	Total	Quantity	545	—	413	—	—	—
		Cost	126,000	25,795	54,529	86,000	10,968	274,176
2005-06	a) Chairs	Quantity	20	—	39	—	—	—
		Cost	3,900	—	3,497	—	—	—
	b) Desks	Quantity	0	—	0	—	—	—

£

			DfT Central			Executive Agency		
			Ashdown House, Hastings	*Air Accidents Investigations Branch*	*Rail Accident Investigation Branch (see note 1)*	*Driving Standards Agency*	*Government Car and Despatch Agency*	*Highways Agency*
		Cost	0	—	0	—	—	—
	c) Other	Quantity	0	—	218	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	33,888	—	—	—
	Total	Quantity	20	—	257	—	—	—
		Cost	3,900	41,952	37,385	48,000	7,141	124,252
2006-07	a) Chairs	Quantity	77	—	3	—	—	—
		Cost	15,600	—	452	—	—	—
	b) Desks	Quantity	0	—	0	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	0	—	—	—
	c) Other	Quantity	0	—	34	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	2,417	—	—	—
	Total	Quantity	77	—	37	—	—	—
		Cost	15,600	55,924	2,869	112,000	10,660	2,405,660
2007-08	a) Chairs	Quantity	8	—	23	—	—	—
		Cost	2,100	—	4,789	—	—	—
	b) Desks	Quantity	0	—	3	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	1,198	—	—	—
	c) Other	Quantity	0	—	72	—	—	—
		Cost	0	—	7,792	—	—	—
	Total	Quantity	8	—	98	—	—	—
		Cost	2,100	27,117	13,779	375,000	12,199	366,412

Note:
1. Rail Accident Investigation Branch became operational on 17 October 2005.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 158W, on departmental public participation, what action *(a)* has been taken and *(b)* is planned in response to each survey listed in the Answer. [212327]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Research with members of the public, including that listed in the answer on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 158-62W, forms an important part of the Department's evidence base. Monitoring customer satisfaction with transport services helps to underpin improvements to services. Research helps us to understand the transport needs and priorities of the public and is used to design, implement, and evaluate the impact of policy interventions. It also provides important insights into the links between attitudes and behaviour, and how best to bring about behavioural change. The Department's research also contributes to the development of awareness campaigns, such as Think! and Act on CO_2, and monitors their impact. This ensures that the campaigns are effective, reach the target audience, and achieve value for money.

Further information can be found in the Department's Evidence and Research Strategy. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/unitlevelevidenceandresearch1905.

Driving Tests

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test centres the Driving Standards Agency plans to operate in addition to the planned multi-purpose test centres. [212438]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Currently the Driving Standards Agency plans to operate a national network of 277 centres offering practical driving tests for car, lorry and bus drivers in addition to 66 multi-purpose test centres. A further 41 casual hire sites, mainly in Scotland, will also be operational.

These plans will be kept under review and are subject to change depending on the business needs of the agency delivering a cost-effective and efficient service to the public.

Driving Tests: Fees and Charges

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she next plans to review the level of fees for *(a)* car and *(b)* motorcycle practical driving tests; and if she will make a statement. [211646]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) reviews the fees set for all practical and theory driving tests and other functions each business year.

Any fee proposals are based on the DSA business plan. DSA published its Business Plan 2008-09 in April 2008. DSA will consult later this year on any proposed changes so that revised fees are in place for 1 April 2009 the start of that business year.

Driving Tests: Scarborough

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the future of Scarborough Driving Test Centre; and if she will make a statement. [212437]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 June 2008]*: From September 2008, motorcycle testing at Scarborough will move to the multi-purpose test centre in Hull, which is about 45 miles from Scarborough. Motorcycle test candidates will also have the option of travelling to York, some 40 miles from Scarborough, once the multi-purpose test centre there is acquired and operational.

Practical car driving tests will continue to be carried out at Scarborough driving test centre.

Driving Tests: Southend

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many car and motorcycle tests were conducted at the Southend driving test centre in each of the last 10 years. [210593]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of practical car and motorcycling tests conducted at the Southend driving test centre in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

	Car	*Motorcycling*	*Total*
1998-99	7,687	479	8,166
1999-2000	6,620	697	1,359
2000-01	6,477	518	6,995
2001-02	6,314	355	6,669
2002-03	7,284	453	7,737
2003-04	7,780	571	8,351
2004-05	8,756	390	9,146
2005-06	9,687	392	10,079
2006-07	9,231	431	9,662
2007-08	9,045	393	9,438

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the proposed move of driving tests from the Southend Driving Test Centre to the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon will cost. [210595]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Based on similar relocations in the recent past the Driving Standards Agency would expect to spend around £5,000 in removal costs for moving from Southend Driving Test Centre to the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon if that is the final decision.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are employed at the Southend driving test centre; and how many positions will be available for these staff if the centre is co-located with the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon. [210596]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) employs seven driving examiners at the Southend driving test centre.

DSA will offer the driving examiners employed at Southend driving test centre the opportunity to take part in a preference exercise for alternative posts prior to any potential redeployment.

If the centre is co-located to the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon, positions would be available for all the driving examiners currently employed at Southend.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected cost is of providing services to users who live within the current Southend catchment area if the Southend Driving Test Centre is co-located with the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon *(a)* in total and *(b)* per test. [210597]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency does not hold the information required in this format and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the feasibility of Southend driving test centre being used for car driving tests only. [211057]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is currently reviewing the responses received to the recent consultation on the future of Southend driving test centre before a decision is made.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any steps have been taken by the Driving Standards Agency to identify a site in Southend that is suitable for motorcycle tests compliant with European Community Directive 2000/56/EC. [211058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) initially focused its search for a suitable site for a multi-purpose test centre on the Chelmsford area. Following poor availability of suitable sites in Chelmsford the search area was widened to include Basildon.

The search areas used are intended to bring the widest possible population coverage within DSA's criterion that most motorcycle customers should be within 20 miles or 45 minutes of a multi-purpose test centre.

Owing to operational concerns over the potential redevelopment of the area around the existing Southend driving test centre, Southend was not considered as a specific search area for the location of a multi-purpose test centre.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account was taken of the Driving Standards Agency's travel distance criterion in proposing to co-locate the Southend Driving Test Centre with the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon. [211060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres" used by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) states that candidates in areas with a population density equal to or more than 1,250 persons per square kilometre customers should not have to travel further than seven miles to a driving test centre.

The proposed site for the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon is some ten miles away from Southend. Therefore DSA has run a public consultation about the future of Southend driving test centre. This commenced on 13 February and closed on 9 May 2008. DSA is currently reviewing the responses received before a decision will be made. This is expected to be announced in August 2008.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the environmental impact of co-locating Southend Driving Test Centre with the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon; and what account was taken of *(a)* people travelling from Southend to Basildon for driving lessons and *(b)* time spent in traffic. [211061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No environmental impact assessment has been prepared for the co-location of Southend Driving Test Centre with the Multi-Purpose Test Centre in Basildon. There is no requirement for the Driving Standards Agency to do so.

All learner drivers should be taught to drive safely and confidently on a variety of roads rather than to follow test routes. So it should not be necessary for learner drivers to travel to Basildon from Southend for driving lessons, unless it is for pre-test familiarisation. This should minimise the environmental impact of those journeys and reduce the time spent in traffic.

Driving Tests: Standards

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driving Standards Agency plans to review its code of practice with regard to guidance on *(a)* population density and *(b)* proximity to a driving test centre. [211059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) currently has no plans to review its "Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres."

Ministers agreed the code of practice when it was revised in July 2005. This code of practice is available on the DSA website at:

http://www.dsa.gov.uk/Consultation.asp?id=SXBAF2-A7825C59&cat=418

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) she estimates will be operational for motorcycle driving tests on 29 September 2008; and what estimate she has made of the greatest distance a candidate will have to travel to access a MPTC in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland on that date. [212439]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* The Driving Standards Agency estimates that 39 multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) will be operational by 29 September 2008. There will also be up to 12 part time motorcycle test centres to support these MPTCs.

These provisions will ensure that around 75 per cent. of motorcycle test candidates will be within 45 minutes or 20 miles of a motorcycle testing facility. In addition, around 93 per cent. of the population will be within 60 minutes of an MPTC and 98 per cent. within 90 minutes.

No estimate has been made of the longest distance a candidate will have to travel.

Railways: South East

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the draft determination of the Office of the Rail Regulator on *(a)* platform lengthening at Royston and *(b)* electric power upgrades on the line from Kings Cross to Cambridge; and if she will make a statement. [211076]

Mr. Tom Harris: I am pleased that the Office of Rail Regulation has confirmed that the Government's specification for a substantial increase in rail capacity by 2014, with further improvements in reliability and safety, is affordable within the funds we have made available. Passengers at Royston will be among the many that will benefit from our widespread investment in the railways. Improving the power supply between Cambridge and Kings Cross, and lengthening the platforms at Royston and other stations, will enable longer trains to operate, meeting the growing peak demand.

Transport: Greater Manchester

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what time, on what date, in what form and by whom information on the matters covered in her Statement of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-34, on transport (Greater Manchester), was made available to *(a)* The Times, *(b)* The Daily Telegraph and *(c)* the Financial Times; and whether she authorised the releases of the information. [210591]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2008]:* Information relating to the matters covered in the Secretary of State's Statement on 9 June 2008 on transport in Greater Manchester was made available to all media in the form of a press release, issued by the Department for Transport's Communication Directorate at 3.48 p.m on 9 June.

No information relating to the matters covered in that Statement was made available to The Times, The Daily Telegraph or the Financial Times by the Department in advance of the Statement being made by the Secretary of State.

Transport: Safety Measures

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the use of electronic stability control anti-skid systems; and what plans she has to encourage their more widespread use. [212340]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport sponsored a study in 2007 to consider the effectiveness of passenger car Electronic Stability Control (ESC) systems in Great Britain. The research indicated that

ESC-equipped passenger cars are involved in 25 per cent. fewer fatal road accidents and are 11 per cent. less likely to be involved in a serious accident.

Officials have been active in agreeing international technical requirements for ESC systems. We anticipate that the European Commission will bring forward proposals for mandating ESC systems to the majority of new types of cars, heavy commercial vehicles and their trailers from October 2012.

We welcome the introduction of ESC systems as a positive step to improving the safety of all road vehicles and have encouraged motorists to purchase ESC equipped vehicles.

TREASURY

Child Trust Fund: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children were eligible for child trust fund vouchers in Islwyn constituency in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [212680]

(2) what percentage of eligible children in households in Islwyn constituency have *(a)* received child trust fund vouchers and *(b)* had child trust accounts opened for them. [212681]

Kitty Ussher: Constituency and regional data on Child Trust Fund accounts were published on 24 October 2007 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies at each senior civil service grade. [211780]

Angela Eagle: The figures in the following table have been provided by individual Departments and represent the senior civil service grades as at 16 June 2008.

	Grade			
	Deputy director	*Deputy director*	*Director*	*Director general*
Pay band	1	1A	2	3
Department:				
OGC	18	0	6	2
OGC BS	3	0	1	0
HM Treasury	79	0	16	7
Royal Mint	1	0	1	0
HMRC inc VOA	315	69	37	6
DMO	0	0	1	0
NSI	3	2	5	1
GAD	0	0	1	0

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which individuals other than his Department's and HM Revenue and Customs' officials were present at meetings held with third party interest groups on changes to the system of vehicle excise duty before the 2008 Budget. [211590]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Minimum Wage

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* under 21 and *(c)* over 60 years were found to be being paid below the national minimum wage in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) ethnicity. [212351]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not collect information which would allow them to determine the ethnic origins or age profile of underpaid workers. HMRC does hold information on gender profile of underpaid workers but not in the format requested. The following table shows the gender profile of underpaid workers.

	Male	*Female*
2003-04	5,026	4,402
2004-05	5,801	5,460
2005-06	11,257	14,057
2006-07	4,989	9,200
2007-08	10,475	8,789

National Insurance Contributions: Earnings Limits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of alignment of the upper earnings limit for National Insurance contributions with the higher rate threshold for income tax; and if he will make a statement; [206650]

(2) if he will estimate the value in terms of reduced costs to *(a)* business and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs of alignment of the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions with the higher rate threshold for income tax. [207096]

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the alignment of national insurance and tax thresholds; and if he will make a statement. [208418]

Jane Kennedy: The Government remain committed to bringing the income tax and the national insurance contributions (NICs) systems closer together. The overall aim is to improve fairness and coherence, to reduce administrative burdens, and to make the two systems easier to understand.

There has already been progress in aligning tax and NICs in terms of a simplified structure of employers' NICs, replacing multiple rates with a single rate and abolishing the entry fee. With just two main rates of income tax and two main rates of national insurance in this tax year, the UK's personal tax system is already one of the simplest personal tax structures of any developed country.

Nevertheless, the Government are continuing to look at the scope for further alignment of tax and NICs taking into account the changes made on 13 May, and in future pre-Budget and Budget reports.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to his Department is of providing care and support to troops injured during service in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in 2008-09. [209612]

Derek Twigg: The net additional costs of operations are recovered from the Treasury Reserve. The highly changeable nature of operations means that we are not able to provide accurate forecast costs for specific elements of operations for 2008-09. Our initial estimate of the net additional costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, for 2008-09, will be published in winter supplementary estimates.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many complaints were made to Modern Housing Solutions about service accommodation in each month since January 2008; [205129]

(2) how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions have received in each month since January 2008. [211972]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1015-16W to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

The answer also corrects the figures in my response of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 876-77W for the period of May to December 2007.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 768W, on armed forces: influenza, what quantity of *(a)* vaccines and *(b)* antivirals are held by his Department for use by the armed forces for the treatment of seasonal influenza; where these stocks are held; and if he will make a statement. [208973]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Services operate in accordance with the guidance issued by the Dept of Health and the Health Protection Agency (which issues annual advice on the prescription of antivirals). For the treatment of seasonal influenza, Defence Medical Services obtain vaccines and antivirals as required, through the UK Departments of Health (DH). Stocks will be held locally at unit medical centres and other medical facilities, and quantities will vary according to clinical requirement and day-to-day usage. Vaccinations and antivirals are prescribed for individuals by medical staff according to clinical need, following national guidance issued by the DH.

It would not be practical to "stockpile" vaccines against seasonal influenza, since antigenic drifts (minor changes) of influenza viruses lead to the emergence of new viral strains every year. These minor changes cause seasonal influenza and explain why reformulation of the influenza vaccine is required every year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 127-8W, on the armed forces: influenza, how many antiviral courses are available to the armed forces to meet future operational demands; how many antiviral courses are held *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas; in which countries the antiviral courses are held overseas; how many antiviral courses are held in each country; whether these antivirals are available for use by armed forces in the event of (i) seasonal and (ii) pandemic influenza; and if he will make a statement; [208983]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1207-8W, on the armed forces: influenza, what total quantity of antiviral courses is held in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan for use by the armed forces; what proportion of the total number of antiviral courses held in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan is allocated for the treatment of (A) pandemic influenza and (B) seasonal influenza; how many antivirals are held in other countries; in which countries they are held; and if he will make a statement; [209110]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1208W, on armed forces: influenza, to which overseas bases the antiviral courses were distributed. [209344]

Derek Twigg: Around 17,500 courses of pandemic influenza antivirals earmarked for future operational demands are held in the UK by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) on behalf of the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. PJHQ will authorise distribution of the appropriate quantities to operational theatres as required.

In accordance with Defence Medical Services guidance, 10 antiviral courses have been pre-positioned in medical facilities overseas; five courses in the Role 2 (Enhanced) field hospital unit at Basra in Iraq and five in the one at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan.

A further 18,000 antiviral courses for use in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza have been distributed to overseas locations where MOD personnel and their dependents are based. The quantities have been calculated in accordance with Department of Health guidance, and stockholdings are kept under regular review.

For seasonal influenza, guidance is that only "at risk" patients will be treated, and antivirals will be obtained through the normal supply chain in accordance with clinical requirement. Pre-deployment medical standards mean that such individuals would not be allowed to deploy on operations.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on the armed forces: influenza, what assessment he has made of the speed at which the stockpile of antivirals held at Permanent Joint Headquarters may be deployed to theatre in the event of an influenza pandemic; how many face masks are held in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* other theatres; what other appropriate preventative measures he is considering; and if he will make a statement. [208984]

Derek Twigg: As stated in my answer to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1207W, around 17,500 courses of influenza antivirals earmarked for future operational demands are held in the UK by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) on behalf of the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. PJHQ will authorise distribution of the appropriate quantities to operational theatres as required. As with any logistic supplies, if the requirement is urgent antivirals can be deployed rapidly to theatre in accordance with well-established procedures.

Face masks are a standard item of clinical equipment, and have a wide range of medical uses. Stocks sufficient for all requirements are held in field hospitals and other medical units in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. Precise holdings will fluctuate on a daily basis, being replenished through the standard logistics chain as required.

Specific guidance on infection control in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza has been promulgated to all Defence Medical Services personnel and military commanders. This covers all appropriate medical procedures including hygiene, patient placement, and waste disposal, and includes specialised guidance on procedures in operational settings.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 3 April, *Official Report*, column 1207-08W, on armed forces; influenza, whether the stockpile of A/H5N1 vaccines for use by the armed forces in the event of an influenza pandemic is held in the UK. [208985]

Derek Twigg: The A/H5N1 vaccine stockpile is held in the UK by the Department of Health, which includes a ring-fenced allocation held on behalf of the MOD, and in the event of an outbreak will be deployed by MOD in accordance with DH guidelines and MOD need.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Westbury, (Dr. Murrison) of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 786W, on armed forces: influenza, for which categories of armed forces personnel plans have been drawn up for the prophylactic use of antivirals; and if he will make a statement. [209293]

Derek Twigg: In the event of a threatened influenza pandemic, antivirals for prophylactic purposes may be prescribed for certain categories of key workers (such as military medical staff) in accordance with guidance issued by the UK Department of Health and MOD's Surgeon General. Their use will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature and location of the outbreak.

Armed Forces: Planning

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the armed forces last operated within his Department's planning assumptions; and when he next expects the armed forces to be operating within these planning assumptions. [212388]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* As set out in the MOD's recent annual reports, the armed forces have been operating above our current planning assumptions since 2002. A return to operating within these assumptions will depend upon future commitments.

Defence: Thesauri

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* UK Defence Taxonomy and *(b)* UK Defence Thesaurus. [211887]

Derek Twigg: The UK Defence Taxonomy is a living document and is therefore subject to alteration to accurately reflect the changing nature of UK Defence business. Moreover, due to the size of the document, and the dependencies within it, the Taxonomy is designed for electronic application and is most conveniently viewed in electronic format.

The UK Defence Taxonomy is complemented by, and interlinked with, the UK Defence Thesaurus, and the two products are jointly known as the UK Defence Terminology. The UK Defence Thesaurus is an expansion of the UK Defence Taxonomy and provides greater detail.

Electronic copies of both these publications will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* the devolved institutions and *(b)* political parties on the allocation of receipts from the sale of assets held by his Department to (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland. [209810]

Derek Twigg: In line with HM Treasury guidance, receipts retained by the Ministry of Defence are reinvested by the Department in key priorities. Therefore, no discussions have been held with administrations regarding their allocation.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212910]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1310W to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison). The National Asset Register includes Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Trading Funds and the Oil and Pipeline Agency and those assets used by the reserve forces and cadets association which are owned by the Ministry of Defence.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policy of his Department is on granting staff leave to attend criminal trials in order to provide *(a)* a witness statement and *(b)* evidence; and if he will make a statement. [212435]

Derek Twigg: Special paid leave may be granted for attendance at a court of law if MOD employees are requested by the police or Crown Prosecution service to give evidence or a witness statement. A voluntary witness may be granted special unpaid leave.

Ex-servicemen: Mentally Ill

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces veterans were diagnosed with mental health problems in each of the last 15 years. [211399]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held by the MOD.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people aged *(a)* 12 to 14, *(b)* 15 to 16 and *(c)* 17 years were (i) prosecuted and (ii) given a penalty charge notice for disorder for purchasing alcohol in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [192461]

Mr. Coaker: There were no persons aged 12 to 18 who were proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Cambridgeshire police force area for the offence of purchasing alcohol by a person aged under 18 years for the years 2001 to 2006. It would not be possible to provide information for Peterborough city council, as data at this level of detail are not held centrally.

In addition, under the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme established by the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, the police can issue a fixed penalty of £50 for the offence of "Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18" section 149(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (c.17). No PNDs have been issued for the offence to anyone under 18 by Cambridgeshire police force in 2005 or 2006, the latest year for which confirmed data are available.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which overseas primate supply or breeding facilities which export primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research her Department has *(a)* inspected and approved and *(b)* not inspected in the last two years; what country each is in; and if she will make a statement. [210716]

Meg Hillier: 10 overseas centres are currently accepted to supply non-human primates to designated user establishments in the United Kingdom. Of these, four, in China, Vietnam and the Netherlands, have been visited by Home Office inspectors since June 2006. The remaining centres in the Netherlands, Israel, Mauritius and the United States of America have not been visited in that period.

The acceptability of an overseas centre supplying non-human primates to UK designated establishments is reviewed at least once every two years. This biennial review takes into consideration all available information including full details of the breeding centre, submitted to the Home Office on a standard pro-forma, responses to specific questions on current care and accommodation, routine reports submitted by users following receipt of each consignment of animals and, where possible, informal reports from users who have visited the centre.

Normally, centres will be visited every two to four years depending on the findings from the previous visit, the need to reassess on site and whether animals are being supplied from the site. Visits by the Inspectorate are risk based, depending on the need to monitor standards of husbandry and care or progress of improvements.

Extradition: USA

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the extradition treaty with the US with a view to ensuring that the UK is able to extradite suspects from the US under the same conditions pertaining to extradition from the UK to the US. [209876]

Meg Hillier: The Government consider that our extradition arrangements generally, and with the United States in particular, are balanced and fair and do not require amendment.

The 'probable cause' test that the US requires of extradition requests made to it by the UK is broadly comparable to the requirement for "information" about the offence that the UK requires of the US ("information that would justify the issue of a warrant for the arrest of a person within the judge's jurisdiction...." - i.e., "reasonable suspicion"). To reintroduce the prima facie test would be to recreate an unequal relationship.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the potential for Kettering constituency to become involved in the 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [212752]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working hard to ensure that the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work chaired by Charles Allen. Kettering's involvement in the Games is represented through the Northamptonshire 2012 Steering Group. Northamptonshire is one of five county-level groups established by the County Sports Partnership across the region to maximise the benefits of 2012.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and LOCOG expect to directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts. In January, the Olympic Family launched the London 2012 Business Network, helping businesses across the UK to access these contracts. CompeteFor is a key component of the Business Network, as it enables businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises, across the UK to access contracts from the ODA and LOCOG supply chains. The ODA has already awarded 27 contracts to companies registered in the east midlands. Businesses in every constituency, including Kettering, should be encouraged to sign up and get support via the London 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/business

to compete for and win contracts.

Additionally, one facility from Kettering—Kettering Leisure Village—offering three sports disciplines is to be included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

I also understand there are plans to hold the 2008 Northamptonshire Cultural Olympiad festival (working title) in Kettering on 24 August. This will be held at Wicksteed Park— plans include live coverage of the Beijing closing ceremony and handover as well as a number of sports, arts and cultural events.

JUSTICE

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212114]

Mr. Wills: No Ministers or officials from the Ministry of Justice will be attending the Beijing Olympic games in an official capacity.

Prospects Project

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the objectives of the Prospects Project were; and if he will make a statement on its progress. [212854]

Mr. Hanson: The Prospects programme was designed to reduce crime in local communities by assisting offenders with a history of drug taking to lead law-abiding lives. It offered such offenders a 12-16 week residential place with comprehensive services and support followed by identification of suitable accommodation where support was provided for up to six months in the community. It was originally aimed at drug-using offenders serving short prison sentences who became abstinent in custody and entered into voluntary support on release to the programme.

The numbers of offenders dealt with by the programme were not as high as expected and following a commercial review it was considered that the costs of the programme outweighed the benefits being realised. This view was supported by independent evaluation. I consequently agreed to the closure of the programme on the 7 January 2008. Members of Parliament for the respective constituencies in which the hostels are located have been informed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bingo

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the future prospects for the bingo industry; and if he will make a statement. [212751]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I hope to make a statement to the House on this and related matters shortly.

Culture: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value of cultural grants made to UK organisations from the European Union's Regional Development Fund was in each year since 2000. [211325]

Margaret Hodge: The remit of my Department does not extend beyond England, but the current available figures f[illegible]ultural grants made to English organisations from the European Union's Regional Development Fund since 2000 are set out in the following table:

£ million

	ERDF		
	Current spending	*Capital gains*	*Total*
2000-01	6.6	22.0	28.8
2001-02	6.0	15.7	21.7
2002-03	7.3	6.5	13.8
2003-04	7.0	11.6	18.6
2004-05	5.1	8.7	13.8
2005-06	5.0	6.0	11.0
2006-07[1]	1.0	7.8	8.8
2007-08[1]	1.0	11.4	12.4

[1] Based on spending plans.

Note:

All figures are from the HM Treasury Country and Regional Analysis Data Collection Exercise

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding *(a)* the Arts Council, *(b)* Arts Council regional offices, *(c)* the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and *(d)* MLA regional offices received from the EU (i) Structural Funds and (ii) Social Fund in each of the last five years. [211534]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested, provided by the bodies in question, is set out in the following table:

					£
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
MLA: EU Structural Funds					
MLA	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	38,283	94,614
London	—	—	—	—	—
North East	—	—	—	—	—
North West	—	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	—
South West	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	500,000	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—
MLA: EU Social Fund					
MLA	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	31,554	9,270
London	—	—	—	—	99,000
North East	—	—	30,299	35,031	—
North West	—	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	—
South West	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—
ACE: EU Structural Funds					
Arts Council	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—
London	—	—	—	—	—
North East	805,613	1,569,630	969,743	903,920	945,860
North West	—	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	—
South West	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—
ACE: EU Social Fund					
Arts Council	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—
London	—	—	—	—	—
North East	1,210,340	85,433	1,118,139	799,863	568,859
North West	75,000	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	—
South West	25,884	196,664	23,865	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213214]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has the following standard depreciation cycles:

(a) Vehicles—My Department does not have any vehicles and therefore no depreciation cycle applies.

(b) Computer hardware—three years.

(c) Bespoke computer software—three years.

(d) Standard computer software—three years.

(e) Furniture—five years;

(f) Telecommunications equipment—three years.

Departmental Homeworking

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department are authorised to work from home. [212528]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department currently has 50 members of staff authorised to work from home.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency. [212487]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The trade unions representing staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are the Public and Commercial Services Union and the First Division Association. In the Royal Parks, the trade unions are the Public and Commercial Services Union and Prospect.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Grade I, *(b)* Grade II and *(c)* Grade III listed buildings are located in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England. [212818]

Margaret Hodge: According to English Heritage, the number of listings in each grade in England, Lancashire and Ribble Valley is as follows:

Grade	*England*	*Lancashire*	*Ribble Valley*
I	9,152	71	20
II[1]	21,145	270	51
II	342,217	5,094	890
Total	372,514	5,435	961

[1] Grade II are particularly important buildings of more than special interest

Information is held on the number of listings, rather than the number of buildings, as a listing may include groups of buildings. Information is not held on Grade III listed buildings as the classification was rendered obsolete in 1970. To clarify, the grades are defined as follows:

> Grade I buildings are those of exceptional interest;
>
> Grade II[1] are particularly important buildings of more than special interest;
>
> Grade II are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications were received by the National Heritage Memorial Fund in each year since 1997; what percentage of applications were successful; and what amount of grants was given out in each year. [210255]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested, as supplied by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*NHMF applications received*	*Successful (percentage)*	*Grants awarded (£)*
1997-98	28	50	1,694,085
1998-99	18	33	2,112,019
1999-2000	10	60	4,653,761
2000-01	11	64	4,903,157
2001-02	10	50	2,599,607
2002-03	7	71	22,016,500
2003-04	7	100	7,724,048
2004-05	10	60	2,186,395
2005-06	29	79	5,493,237
2006-07	20	75	6,166,346
2007-08	16	81	16,397,985

Public Libraries: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries there were in Essex in each of the last 15 years. [212065]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the total number of library service points in Essex open for 10 hours or more per week including mobiles. The table is compiled from figures published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their report Public Library Statistics. Copies of this report are available in the House of Commons Library, including the most recent edition which also contains estimated figures for 2007-08.

	Number
1992-93	107
1993-94	108
1994-95	108
1995-96	110
1996-97	109
1997-98	109
1998-99	90
1999-2000	90
2000-01	90
2001-02	90
2002-03	90
2003-04	89
2004-05	89
2005-06	86
2006-07	86

Raoul Wallenberg

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what files are held by his Department on the Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill of Session 1989-90; and if he will make a statement. [212646]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport holds no files on the Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill of session 1989-90.

Regional Sports Boards

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of

16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 661W, on regional sports boards, what the role of Sport England's regional offices is expected to be; how much he has allocated to them for each of the next three years; and how much will it cost to run them. [212978]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England will continue to maintain a strong regional presence through a network of nine area offices. The regional work will be more narrowly focused on:

> Managing relationships, advocacy and influencing at a local level to maintain the existing investment for community sport from the various local stakeholders;
>
> Sport England's statutory and non statutory planning functions;
>
> Taking an overview of sports facility provision within each area; and
>
> Managing the allocation of the remaining Community Investment Funds.

The organisational structure which will deliver the Sport England 2008-11 strategy is being finalised and will be announced shortly. This will determine operating costs at a regional and national level. I have therefore asked Sport England to write to the hon. Member once the structure has been announced and budgets decided. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Sports: ACP Countries

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance is available to sports national governing bodies relating to the application of the Cotonou Agreement to sport in the UK. [208685]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* We are waiting clarification from the European Commission on the application of the Cotonou Agreement for the freedom of movement of professional sports people within the European Community. We understand that the Commission will be issuing substantive clarification shortly. Any such clarification will inform any guidance issued to national sports governing bodies in the UK.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has made representations to the EU on the impact of the Cotonou Agreement on the free movement of sportsmen and women; and if he will make a statement. [208686]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* I have not made any representations to the EU over the impact of the Cotonou Agreement on the free movement of sports people. However, we look forward to the Commission's response on this matter which should provide guidance for sports national governing bodies in the UK.

Tourism: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department allocated to tourism in the Leeds Metropolitan District in each year since 2005. [211176]

Margaret Hodge: Central Government funding for the English regions (including the Leeds metropolitan district) is administered by the regional development agencies but is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism. Since 2005 the DCMS has contributed £3.6 million to DBERR's Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight agencies outside London; and £1.9 million in support of the statutory tourism duties of the Greater London Authority.

The regional development agencies themselves spent £52 million in 2005-06; £51.8 million in 2006-07; and £43.5 million in 2007-08 on tourism support.

Tourism: Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on marketing and promoting tourism in each of the last five years. [210258]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS funding for VisitBritain is all spent on the marketing of Britain overseas, and of England within Britain and Europe. The budget for the last five years (in £ million) was:

£ million

	Total	*Overseas budget*	*Domestic budget*
2003-04	47.9	35.5	12.4
2004-05	48.4	35.5	12.9
2005-06	48.9	35.5	13.4
2006-07	49.9	35.5	14.4
2007-08	49.9	35.5	14.4

DCMS also provided £3.6 million in each of these years to the eight regional development agencies outside of London and £1.9 million for each of these years to the London Development Agency for the support of tourism.

All of the DCMS funding for the London Development Agency is spent on the tourism marketing of the capital, and the promotion of its role as a gateway to the rest of the UK. It is for the regional development agencies outside London to decide on how best to use DCMS funding to support tourism in their regions. In 2007-08, all the agencies spent a total £43.5 million on supporting tourism.

Tourism: North West

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was allocated by his Department to tourism in the North West of England in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by category of expenditure. [209895]

Margaret Hodge: Central Government funding for the Regional Development Agencies (including the North West) is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism. However, the Agencies have reported that their tourism spending totalled £43.5 million in 2007-08. Of that amount, DCMS contributed £3.6 million to DBERR's Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight Agencies outside London; and £1.9 million in support of the statutory tourism duties of the Greater London Authority.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Dementia: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Medical Research Council plans to spend in 2009-10 on dementia research in *(a)* Leeds university and *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside. [211175]

Ian Pearson: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In 2006-07, MRC spent approximately £6.4 million on research on dementias in the UK. MRC is currently undertaking a strategic review on neurodegeneration. Recommendations from the review may help inform future levels of funding for dementias. MRC do not have set budgets for specific illnesses and research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. MRC welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of his Department's employees are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208395]

Mr. Lammy: In my Department, the breakdown of staff is as follows:

(a) 434 male (49.7 per cent. of all staff),

(b) 440 female (50.3 per cent. of all staff),

(c) 56 declared from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds (6.4 per cent. of all staff),

297 not known (34.0 per cent.), 16 prefer not to say (1.8 per cent.),

(d) 67 have declared a disability (7.7 per cent.), 451 not known (51.6 per cent.), 21 prefer not to say (2.4 per cent.),

(e) 66 declared as not heterosexual (7.6 per cent.), 337 not known (38.6 per cent.), 246 prefer not to say (28.1 per cent.) - this category applies to ex-DFES figures only.

The percentage proportions are based on a total of 874 staff in DIUS.

Departmental records on the numbers of BME staff are based on voluntary self declaration on the basis of the categories used in the 2001 census. Records on the numbers of disabled staff are also solely based on voluntary self-declaration of being a disabled person as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act; and not connected in any way to a formal register of disability.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212112]

Mr. Lammy: Five Government Ministers will attend the games. The Minister for the Olympics will attend the whole games. The Prime Minister; the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Trade Promotion and Investment will each attend a part of the games.

The number of Government officials attending has not yet been finalised.

Science: Museums and Galleries

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to assess the learning impact of science and discovery centres; and if he will make a statement. [212952]

Ian Pearson: DIUS and DCSF have funded Ecsite-UK as part of a £750,000 package. This funding supported a benchmarking project and grants for consortia of centres to explore new ways of collaborative working with each other to provide inreach and outreach activities to schools, and also included an assessment of available evidence on learning impact as part of a wider review of all impacts. The impact study element of the project can be viewed online at:

www.ecsite-uk.net/reports/impact-of-science-discovery-centres.htm

In response to the recommendations in the Science and Technology Committee's 2007 inquiry into the funding of science and discovery centres, and as subsequently discussed at the Westminster Hall debate on 15 May this year, my Department is currently commissioning independent research to assess the relative impact, effectiveness and value for money of science centres in comparison with other science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) delivery agents. Impact in this context will be measured in terms of effectiveness in delivering the Government's science and society (STEM and public engagement) goals. The procurement process for this work has begun, so it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage. However, the Terms of Reference for this project have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for the services provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies to be provided in the Welsh language; and if he will make a statement. [210541]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS makes an assessment of the need for provision of services in the Welsh language on a case by case basis. DirectGov, which provides on-line access to Government services and includes information for students in Further Education and Higher Education applying for courses and financial support, is available in Welsh. DIUS agencies and NDPBs also assess the need on a case-by-case basis.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Immigrants: Employment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of migrants from *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Ukraine, *(c)* Pakistan and *(d)* Sri Lanka in Leeds Metropolitan District found full-time employment in each year since 2000. [211185]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 June 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what percentage of migrants from (a) Poland (b) Ukraine (c) Pakistan and (d) Sri Lanka found full-time employment in Leeds Metropolitan District in each year since 2000. [211185]

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the employment rate of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the employment rate of people at a given time who were born outside the UK and of working age. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the figures. Those in full time employment are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions of employment with the respondent answering that they worked full time.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the employment rate of persons who live in the Leeds Local Authority District in full time employment who were born in Poland, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Figures for Ukraine are not available. Estimates are obtained for the 12 month periods ending in February, for 2001 to 2004, from the annual LFS. The APS estimates from 2004 to 2006 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in December. The most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

The unweighted count (sample size) underpinning the estimates are also provided because at this geographic level they are inevitably small, especially for the earlier years. In addition some numbers in the table are not provided because the sample sizes are very small and risk being disclosive. The estimates are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty and special care should be taken on drawing conclusions on the basis of year-on-year comparisons.

Table 1: Employment rate and unweighted count of working age[1] people who were born in Poland, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who were in full time[2] employment[3], living in the Leeds local authority district, 2001-07

Percentage and count

	Poland		*Pakistan*		*Sri Lanka*	
	Rates (percentage)	*Unweighted count[4]*	*Rates (percentage)*	*Unweighted count[4]*	*Rates (percentage)*	*Unweighted count[4]*
October 2006-September 2007	73	19	40	7	—	—
January 2006-December 2006	71	23	37	4	—	—
January 2005-December 2005	52	7	44	9	—	—
January 2004-December 2004	[5]—	[5]—	45	8	—	—
March 2003-February 2004	—	—	56	7	—	—
March 2002-February 2003	[5]—	—	28	3	—	—
March 2001-February 2002	—	—	36	6	—	—
March 2000-February 2001	—	—	36	6	—	—

'—' = Nil or negligible

[1] Men aged 16-64, women aged 16-59.

[2] Based on respondents' answers.

[3] Based on International Labour Organisation definitions.

[4] Number of respondents for numerator (number of people in full time employment).

[5] Sample too small to provide estimates.

Note:

The country of birth question in the APS/Annual LFS may undercount foreign born because:

it excludes students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent,

it excludes people in most types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites),

it is grossed to population estimates that only include long term migrants (staying 12 months or more).

Source:

Annual Population Survey and local Labour Force Survey

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to those circumstances when Jobseeker's Allowance claimants are told they must accept a job, whether the conditions include jobs that are paid by 100 per cent. commission. [212821]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobseeker's Allowance regulations treat all jobs classed as employed earners' employment, including those based on 100 per cent commission, in the same way.

An employment officer, for example, may offer someone who has the relevant sales experience and looking for this type of work, a job based on 100 per cent. commission.

Where the offer of the job is refused it will be referred to an independent decision maker who will determine whether the jobseeker can demonstrate "good cause" for their decision. Each case is judged on its individual circumstances, taking all available evidence into account in reaching the decision.

Where the decision maker determines the jobseeker has not demonstrated good cause, they may lose entitlement to benefit for between one and 26 weeks.

National Insurance Contributions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means women who opted to pay the married woman's rate of national insurance contributions prior to the abolition of the half test were advised of *(a)* its abolition and *(b)* the implications of its abolition for their continued election to pay contributions at the reduced rate. [211278]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 June 2008]:* The abolition of the half test for women reaching state pension age after 5 April 1979 was part of a package to encourage married women to make independent pension arrangements and to revisit their election choice. The main thrust of the early publicity was a national press advertising campaign commissioned by DSS during February and March 1977. The programme was designed to give optimum, cost effective coverage of the main target group, working housewives. In addition, there was extensive editorial news and feature coverage in newspapers, magazines, and on radio and television. According to DSS records the published articles all stressed the importance of married women making decisions on their national insurance contributions position.

Leaflets, available at local offices, were distributed by DSS. Specifically, Leaflet NP25 entitled "PENSIONS: Britain's great step forward" issued in August 1975 and Leaflet NP31 entitled "New Pensions: a better deal for women" issued in January 1977 drew attention to the abolition of the half test. Leaflet NI1 entitled "National insurance guidance for married women" issued in February 1978 dealt extensively with the implications of election choice and invited women who were proposing to change their choice and were unsure that they would be able to satisfy the contribution conditions for basic pension to consult their local social security office who would usually get their individual contribution record before giving advice.

Poverty: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment he has made of measures to tackle worklessness in Liverpool, Riverside constituency; and if he will make a statement; [212385]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of measures to tackle poverty in Liverpool, Riverside constituency. [212387]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 June 2008]:* Work is the best route out of poverty. For example, children in working households are much less likely to be in poverty than those living in households where no one is working. The Government have made considerable progress in tackling worklessness through national back-to-work programmes such as New Deal and Pathways to Work, as well as local initiatives such as Step Closer 2 Work.

Since 1997 the number of unemployed people in the Liverpool Riverside constituency has fallen by 45 per cent., the number of lone parents claiming benefit has fallen by 28 per cent. and the number of people claiming incapacity benefits has fallen by 17 per cent. Specific information on the level of poverty are not available below regional level.

However we recognise that there is more to do.

In August the Jobcentre Plus District for Liverpool Riverside will start a campaign targeting over 2,000 small to medium-size employers, encouraging them to work with us in local employment partnerships. This will open up job opportunities for those of our customers who have found it difficult to take advantage of the employment opportunities that exist across the district. Across Liverpool the working neighbourhoods fund is investing over £3 million in 2008-09 and the deprived area fund over £2 million to improve employment opportunities. Jobcentre Plus have also been working with the local authority and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to improve the transition when people move between welfare and work.

Vertex Data Science

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times he met the Chief Executive of Vertex Data Science Ltd. in each of the last three years. [212023]

Mrs. McGuire: Neither the Secretary of State nor any of his predecessors have met with the Chief Executive of Vertex Data Science Ltd. in any of the last three years.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age: Discrimination

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2684W, on age: discrimination, what the terms of reference of the research commissioned by her Department on the costs and benefits of eliminating age discrimination in health and social care provision are. [208257]

Barbara Follett: The briefs for the two literature reviews commissioned by the Department of Health were:

> for a rapid literature review with the key focus on costs (and if possible benefits) of removing age discrimination in social care and mental health services with particular emphasis on international literature (Centre for Policy on Ageing); and
>
> to summarise the theoretical literature in order to explore what are the specific age-based criticisms and defences of cost-effectiveness analysis within the literature, to what degree could alternative methods address the different equity concerns raised within the debate, and related issues (university of Leeds).

The briefs for the two research studies commissioned by the Department of Health were:

On social care (university of Kent):

> to investigate the extent, reasons for and impact of any age discrimination in the commissioning and provision of adult social services;
>
> to produce an estimate of the costs of eliminating any such age discrimination, on the basis that services for the disadvantaged group would be levelled up to those of the advantaged group;

to prepare a report setting out findings from the study, including details of caveats, and suggestions for any further research on this topic.

On mental health (London School of Economics/ university of Swansea):

> to explore the extent of age discrimination in mental health services. Three broad issues are addressed: inequalities between adult and older people's mental health services; inequalities between adults and older people with mental health problems in their use of health and social care services; and knowledge about the likely single equalities legislation in current services and the possible costs of implementation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2684W, on age: discrimination, whether the research commissioned by her Department on the costs and benefits of eliminating age discrimination in health and social care provision has examined the issues in relation to those under 18 years. [208258]

Barbara Follett: The research commissioned by the Department of Health considered age discrimination in relation to adults (aged 18 and over), in keeping with the proposal in the consultation paper "A Framework for Fairness" that any legislation to ban unfair age discrimination would deal with adults but not with people under 18.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on proposals for implementing a positive duty on public bodies to promote age equality; and if she will make a statement. [210722]

Barbara Follett: Throughout the progression of the Equality Bill, I and my officials have been in close contact with colleagues in a number of key departments including the Department of Health, Department of Work and Pensions, the Treasury and others, to discuss among other things the proposals for a single public sector duty. Our proposals for the Bill will be included in the Government's response to the Discrimination Law Review consultation, which will be published shortly.

Clubs: Membership

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on the applicability of sexual discrimination legislation to the membership rules of private members' clubs; and if she will make a statement. [209516]

Barbara Follett: The Government consulted on the issue of discrimination in private member clubs in their consultation on proposals for an Equality Bill which closed in September last year. Nearly 200 responses were received on this issue. The Government will publish their response to the consultation shortly.

Consumers: Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will commission research into the incidence of discrimination in the supply of goods and services to children and young people under 18 years of age on the basis of their age; and if she will make a statement. [209654]

Barbara Follett: The consultation paper on proposals for the Equality Bill, "A Framework for Fairness", signalled that the Government were considering the case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services and that they considered any legislation should only apply to those aged 18 and over. Nevertheless, during the consultation process the Government commissioned the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) to organise an event at which a cross-section of children discussed their own experiences of age discrimination. A report of the event is available on CRAE's website. In addition, a number of consultation responses raised the issue of age discrimination against those aged under 18. The Government will publish their response to the consultation shortly.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of staff working in the Government Equalities Office are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208404]

Barbara Follett: In the Government Equalities Office 40 per cent. of staff are male and 60 per cent. are female. Complete information for the other categories is not available as declaration of ethnic background and disabled status is voluntary and information on civil servants' sexual orientation is not collected.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) what *(a)* projects, *(b)* initiatives and *(c)* programmes the Government Equalities Office has (i) started and (ii) concluded since its creation; [202569]

(2) what projects have been carried out by the Government Equalities Office since its creation, excluding those projects carried out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Women's National Commission, and the former Equalities Commissions; [201424]

(3) what projects the Government Equalities Office has taken the lead on since its establishment. [204687]

Barbara Follett: Since its creation the Government Equalities Office has undertaken a wide range of projects and initiatives. These include work on the setting up of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; developing and undertaking preparatory work to deliver the Equalities Public Services Agreement; managing the consultation and policy development work relating to proposals for a new Equality Bill, and undertaking a variety of initiatives relating to the Minister for Women's Priorities set out in Command Paper Cm 7183.

More detailed information about the work and achievements of the Government Equalities Office will be set out in its first departmental report due to be published later this year.

Departmental Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government's Equalities Office's green transport plan was introduced; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the plan. [209417]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office, which was established in October 2007, is a small department of some 80 people based in central London. Its staff use public transport and, given these circumstances, the GEO has not introduced a Green Transport Plan.

Equality

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) what estimate she has made of the number of people who do not feel they have been treated with dignity and respect from *(a)* disadvantaged and *(b)* non-disadvantaged backgrounds for use as a baseline against performance for indicator five in the 2008 to 2011 PSA 15; and if she will make a statement; [208690]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people who feel they have been discriminated against for use as a baseline for performance against indicator 4 in the 2008 to 2011 PSA 15; and if she will make a statement. [208691]

Barbara Follett: *[holding answer 5 June 2008]:* In respect of tackling discrimination (indicator 4), we will use responses to the 2008 Citizenship Survey to inform a baseline. This is because previous surveys did not separately identify disability-related discrimination. Baseline data based on the revised questions will be available in July 2009.

For reducing unfair treatment (indicator 5), we are considering whether early evidence from the 2007 Citizenship Survey is suitably robust to inform a baseline.

We will publish high-level delivery plans for PSA15 by the summer, which will include the baseline information available at that time for all of the PSA indicators. We will report twice-yearly thereafter on progress in delivering the PSA, beginning in October 2008.

Prisoners: Females

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the implementation of the recommendations of the Corston Report on the needs of vulnerable women in prison. [212142]

Barbara Follett: The Minister for Women has had a number of discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on implementing Baroness Corston's recommendations. We are fully committed to reducing the number of vulnerable women in prison. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle) will make a statement on progress six months on from the recommendations.

Welsh Language

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the level of demand for the services provided by the Government Equalities Office to be provided in the Welsh language; and if she will make a statement. [210536]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office provides a Welsh language translation of documents in downloadable PDF form through its website where appropriate. We do not have records of how often these are downloaded.

HEALTH

Ambulances: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans his Department has for the provision of fuel for ambulances during periods of fuel shortages. [211516]

Mr. Bradshaw: The arrangements for accessing fuel for ambulances are handled at the local level. The Department encourages all national health service organisations to establish contingency plans in line with business continuity management advice and guidance, of which the sourcing of fuel is one element. It is the responsibility of each ambulance trust to put in place local arrangements to mitigate the effects of fuel shortages.

The Government have also established emergency provisions, as a part of the National Emergency Plan—Fuel, which can be invoked should the emergency services be unable to obtain fuel.

Continuing Care

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received continuing care *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 50,000 of population in each primary care trust area in England in (i) the last quarter of 2007-08 and (ii) the first quarter of 2008-09. [211755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information for 2007-08 is shown in the following table. However information for the first quarter of 2008-09 is not available.

Number of people receiving continuing national health service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org. code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population*
	England	38,168	38
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust	415	69
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	155	47
5A9	Barnet PCT	313	47
5JE	Barnsley PCT	60	13
SET	Bassetlaw PCT	23	11
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	421	115

Number of people receiving continuing national health service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org. code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population*
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	162	20
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	379	50
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	246	27
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	135	32
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	183	23
5CC	Blackburn With Darwen PCT	46	15
5HP	Blackpool PCT	72	26
5HQ	Bolton PCT	169	32
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	283	45
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	261	26
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	567	101
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	731	142
5QJ	Bristol PCT	217	26
5A7	Bromley PCT	167	28
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	373	38
5JX	Bury PCT	37	10
5J6	Calderdale PCT	156	39
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	245	22
5K7	Camden PCT	115	25
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	221	25
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	243	28
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	215	48
5QP	Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	660	63
5ND	County Durham PCT	529	52
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	441	68
5K9	Croydon PCT	987	149
5NE	Cumbria PCT	115	11
5J9	Darlington PCT	99	51
5N7	Derby City PCT	222	41
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	789	57
5QQ	Devon PCT	853	59
5N5	Doncaster PCT	360	62
5QM	Dorset PCT	819	108
5PE	Dudley PCT	296	49
5HX	Ealing PCT	80	13
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	207	19
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	129	17
5NW	East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	48	8
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	181	28
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	329	23
5C1	Enfield PCT	208	39
5KF	Gateshead PCT	162	42
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	101	9
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	79	18
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	303	66
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	201	33
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	75	22
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,740	71
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	210	44
5K6	Harrow PCT	277	70
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	133	73
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	155	45
5A4	Havering PCT	301	64
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	267	47
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	149	43
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	105	26
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	394	82
SHY	Hounslow PCT	295	67
5NX	Hull PCT	187	34
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	192	70

Number of people receiving continuing national health service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org. code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population*
5K8	Islington PCT	135	36
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	205	54
5A5	Kingston PCT	74	22
5N2	Kirklees PCT	246	32
5J4	Knowsley PCT	118	39
5LD	Lambeth PCT	249	43
5N1	Leeds PCT	677	45
5PC	Leicester City PCT	163	27
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	352	28
5LF	Lewisham PCT	249	49
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	77	6
5NL	Liverpool PCT	285	32
5GC	Luton PCT	245	67
5NT	Manchester PCT	543	57
5L3	MedwayPCT	177	33
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	98	14
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	159	55
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	61	13
5D7	Newcastle PCT	125	24
5C5	Newham PCT	215	42
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	301	21
5PW	North East Essex PCT	83	13
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust	123	37
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	200	31
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	103	33
5M8	North Somerset PCT	70	18
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	133	33
5E1	North Tees PCT	167	45
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	160	39
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	232	15
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	391	30
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	216	35
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	144	24
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	353	28
5J5	Oldham PCT	219	49
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	364	30
5PN	Peterborough PCT	71	24
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	434	88
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	209	53
5NA	Redbridge PCT	181	38
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	65	24
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	104	30
5H8	Rotherham PCT	122	25
5F5	Salford PCT	250	56
5PF	Sandwell PCT	80	13
5NJ	Sefton PCT	161	30
5N4	Sheffield PCT	299	28
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	280	49
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	136	33
5QL	Somerset PCT	214	21
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	104	15
5P1	South East Essex PCT	65	10
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	32	7
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	310	27
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	117	39
5PY	South West Essex PCT	62	8
5L1	Southampton City PCT	238	49
5LE	Southwark PCT	161	32
5F7	Stockport PCT	161	29
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	148	29

Number of people receiving continuing national health service healthcare, England, quarter four 2007-08

Org. code	*Organisation*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare*	*Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population*
5PT	Suffolk PCT	152	13
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	304	55
5P5	Surrey PCT	548	26
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	194	26
5K3	Swindon PCT	79	21
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	191	42
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	214	66
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	682	247
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	195	46
5NR	Trafford PCT	60	14
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	173	26
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	534	107
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	124	27
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	60	11
5J2	Warrington PCT	108	28
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	497	49
5PV	West Essex PCT	75	14
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	307	29
5P9	West Kent PCT	300	23
5P6	West Sussex PCT	1,151	75
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	131	27
5LC	Westminster PCT	186	40
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	325	38
5NK	Wirral PCT	112	18
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	227	48
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	235	22

Source:

Department of Health form: Local delivery plan return Commissioner; general practitioner membership populations—attribution data set 2007 reconciled to Office for National Statistics mid 2006 estimates for local authorities (minus special populations), and the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 148 of his Department's annual report 2008, what percentage of the *(a)* primary care trust allocations and *(b)* NHS Trust and FT capital budgets have already been allocated; [209138]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1672-3W, on departmental public expenditure, what capital plans his Department has agreed for 2008-09; how much was allocated for each in 2008-09; and what the indicative allocations are for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 for each; [209183]

(3) how much has been set aside in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 to cover the costs of the arrangements to fund the local investment plans of (i) primary care trusts, (ii) foundation trusts and (iii) NHS trusts. [209184]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amounts allowed on page 148 of Departmental Report 2008 for primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) capital expenditure and that of national health service trusts and foundation trusts (FTs) are £0.8 billion and £2.7 billion respectively.

As explained in my answer of 15 May 2008, PCTs and NHS trusts are no longer subject to the formulaic capital allocations of recent years. Under the new capital regimes established for them, capital for investment by PCTs and NHS trusts is allocated in response to plans that they submit at the start of the year, as part of their annual planning process.

The process for 2008-09 is not yet complete, as had been anticipated in the answer of 15 May 2008. It is however well advanced, with individual NHS trusts, and PCTs, plans having been checked for accuracy by SHAs and with the position across most SHA patches validated by the Department. The SHAs and Departmental officials are now broadly satisfied with the majority of the plans and should be able to approve them in the next few weeks.

As capital plans have not yet been approved, none of the capital funding identified for expenditure by PCTs or NHS Trusts in 2008-09 has so far been formally allocated. For the NHS trusts and FTs, however, approaching £1.8 billion of the cash that is spent on capital investment is provided through the cash-funding of depreciation in their revenue income. NHS trusts have had confirmation that they may invest this capital funding, which equates to about 65 per cent. of the £2.7 billion that is stated on page 148 of the Departmental Report 2008 as being available to fund capital investment by NHS trusts and FTs.

FTs are not subject to capital allocations or required to submit financial plans to the Department in the same way as PCTs and NHS trusts. Under their capital regime, the majority of their investment is funded with cash retained from their operations and any property disposals, and through borrowing from the departmentally operated FT financing facility.

Included in the £0.8 billion identified in the Departmental Report 2008 for SHAs and PCTs was a total of £0.497 billion for expenditure on PCTs, own local investment plans in 2008-09, of which £0.097 million was expected to be released through the PCTs' own property disposals. The remaining £0.4 billion of capital resources that was to be provided by the Department had already been notified to PCTs in 'The Operating Framework For the NHS in England 2008-09', which was published in December 2007. This document also advised that the Department would contribute £0.48 billion towards PCTs' local investment plans in 2009-10 and £0.565 billion in 2010-11. The £0.48 billion and £0.565 billion do not include any anticipated contribution from PCTs' property disposals. Copies of this document are available in the Library

The £2.7 billion identified in the Departmental Report 2008 for NHS trusts and FTs capital expenditure included £2.165 billion for expenditure on trusts' local capital investment plans, of which £0.159 billion was expected to be released through the trusts' own property disposals. There is no fixed split of the £2.165 billion into a budget for NHS trusts and FTs. This is because the expenditure of each of these sectors will depend on the number of trusts that achieve foundation status in the year.

The allowances for the local capital investment priorities of PCTs and NHS trusts in 2008-09 may be adjusted as part of the process referred to above of validating and signing off the plans of local NHS Trusts and PCTs.

Capital budgets to cover the local investment plans of NHS trusts and FTs in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and indicative capital allocations for NHS trusts and PCTs for those years have not yet been agreed or announced.

Diabetes: Nurses

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist diabetes nurses were employed in the NHS in each of the last five years. [212077]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify the nurses.

The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. It is for local NHS organisations to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of doctors *(a)* working in the NHS and *(b)* required by the NHS to meet requirements under the Working Time Directive in each of the next five years, broken down by (i) specialism and (b) grade. [212204]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1541-42W.

General Practitioners

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that primary care trusts may expand existing doctors' practices in under-doctored areas by employing more general practitioners rather than creating a new practice in circumstances where the primary care trust considers that this would be the most effective means by which to increase access to general practitioners. [212951]

Mr. Bradshaw: The additional funding provided to primary care trusts (PCTs) in poorly served areas is to secure additional new primary care capacity through an open and fair transparent procurement process. This does not preclude existing general practitioner practices putting forward tenders to expand existing services and capacity that meet their local PCTs service specifications.

NHS: Training

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applications for income-assessed NHS student bursaries were received in each of the last five years; how many applicants were successful; and how much was paid in such bursaries; [212849]

(2) how many applications were received for non-income assessed NHS student bursaries in each of the last five years; how many applicants were successful; and how much was paid in such bursaries. [212834]

Ann Keen: The number of students for whom the NHS Student Bursaries Unit received and assessed an NHS bursary application form, the number of NHS bursary holders in training and the amount of NHS bursary paid for both income assessed bursaries and non-income assessed bursaries in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Academic year	*Number of students for whom a NHS bursary award assessed*	*Number of NHS bursary holders in training*	*Amount of NHS bursary paid (£)*
Income-assessed bursaries			
2002-03	27,176	26,594	67,945,615
2003-04	31,044	30,293	79,974,536
2004-05	34,083	33,339	94,014,031
2005-06	37,197	36,272	113,840,537
2006-07	39,657	38,600	126,273,938
Non-income-assessed bursaries			
2002-03	53,103	52,364	279,084,394

Academic year	*Number of students for whom a NHS bursary award assessed*	*Number of NHS bursary holders in training*	*Amount of NHS bursary paid (£)*
2003-04	54,999	54,175	293,778,507
2004-05	55,669	55,239	318,773,305
2005-06	56,001	55,322	334,132,328
2006-07	54,748	53,974	334,731,614

Notes:

Number of students for whom a NHS Bursary award assessed is shown rather than number of applications because:

1. Non-income-assessed award holders do not need to make an application for any other academic year other than the first academic year for their basic bursary entitlement, if the data showed the number of applications received, the number would be approximately one-third of the number of awards assessed which would inflate the figures when comparing with total amount of NHS bursary paid.
2. If an application is received and returned for more information, NHS Student Bursaries do not hold the data on the number received and returned.
3. If an application is received, and rejected on residency eligibility grounds, NHS Student Bursaries receive the application, but do not assess their entitlement as they are rejected before that assessment is made.
4. If an application is received, but NHS Student Bursaries need more information to determine if they are eligible on residency grounds, they have received that application, but do not assess their entitlement information until the student provides the additional information.

Source:

National Health Service Business Services Authority Student Bursaries Unit

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the completion of the NHS National Workforce Projects pilots in relation to the European Working Time Directive. [212203]

Ann Keen: NHS National Workforce Projects have been commissioned by the Department to support national health service trusts with implementation of the European Working Time Directive for doctors in training and to ensure that learning from the pilots is supported and embedded into the NHS.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with the South Central Strategic Health Authority to discuss the future of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre; and if he will make a statement. [212644]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision about the future of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust is a matter for the local national health service.

More generally, the Department monitors and manages delivery of its key performance indicators for the NHS through strategic health authorities (SHAs), focusing on the priorities as laid out in the Operating Framework—The NHS in England: The Operating Framework for 2008-09, copies of this publication are available in the Library. Officials from the Department liaise regularly with South Central SHA to review performance against priorities.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the current level of the national tariff on the finances of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. [212645]

Mr. Bradshaw: An impact analysis was undertaken prior to the publication of the national tariff for 2008-09. This analysis compared income under the 2008-09 tariff to income under the 2007-08 tariff based on 2005-06 activity levels. This indicated that the changes to the tariff in 2008-09 would be financially beneficial to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust.

Social Services: Training

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to launch the social care skills academy. [212205]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The intention is for the social care skills academy to be operational from March 2009. The process of developing the social care skills academy is being led by social care employers, facilitated and supported by the Department. An expression of interest in becoming a National Skills Academy will be submitted to the Learning and Skills Council by 15 July 2008.

Strokes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females of each age group diagnosed with a transient ischaemic attack in each health authority area in each of the last five years. [210522]

Ann Keen: This information has been placed in the Library.

It should be noted that these figures are based on hospital episode statistics. Some cases of transient ischaemic attack will not be admitted into hospital and will not be counted.

Strokes: Rehabilitation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to encourage improvements in support for people with communication disabilities following a stroke. [212304]

Ann Keen: The new National Stroke Strategy, published in December 2007, sets out 20 quality markers for the provision of high quality treatment and care for adult stroke survivors. Seven of those quality markers link directly to the kind of support and services which those who have had a stroke and their carers need in the community. These include support with communication disabilities and other high quality rehabilitation, information, advice, practical and peer support throughout the care pathway, in line with individual need. Copies of this publication are available in the Library.

In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation. This includes £45 million to local authorities (LAs) to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. We expect that LAs will work with their NHS partners in this. The strategy recognises that some people who have had a stroke, including those with aphasia and other communication difficulties, will have specific support needs. We expect that LAs will use some of the new funding we have made available to meet these needs in line with local needs and priorities.

Strokes: Speech Impaired

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to increase access to communication support services for people who have suffered strokes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement; [212634]

(2) what NHS funding is available to help people recover from the loss of communication skills following strokes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [212635]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally for national health service funding that is available to help people recover from the loss of communication skills by people who have suffered strokes in England and Gloucestershire in each of the last five years.

The new 'National Stroke Strategy', published in December 2007, sets out 20 quality markers for the provision of high quality treatment and care for adult stroke survivors. Of those quality markers, seven link directly to the kind of support and services which those who have had a stroke and their carers need in the community. These include support with communication disabilities and other high quality rehabilitation, information, advice, practical and peer support throughout the care pathway, in line with individual need. Copies of the strategy are available in the Library.

In addition to the funding that has gone to primary care trusts, £105 million of central funding over three years will support implementation. This includes £45 million to local authorities (LAs) to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. We expect that local authorities will work with their NHS partners in this. The strategy recognises that some people who have had a stroke, including those with aphasia and other communication difficulties, will have specific support needs. We expect that LAs will use some the new funding we have made available to meet these needs in line with local needs and priorities.

Wheelchairs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2401W, on wheelchairs, what progress has been made on publishing the outline model for wheelchair services as part of the transforming community equipment and wheelchair services programme. [212080]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data analysis process has now been completed and the detailed business case is currently under consideration. The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme is working closely with senior executives in the national health service to agree the most appropriate way forward.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Eco-Towns

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if her Department will advise on the *(a)* permeability and *(b)* resilience to floods of materials used for homes in the new eco-towns; and if she will ensure that such materials are used in constructing such houses; [209440]

(2) what criteria homes in new eco-towns must meet in respect of the adaptation criteria for the Government's climate change objectives. [209441]

Caroline Flint: As we have set out in "Eco-towns—Living a greener future", eco-towns should show that they are sustainable under present climatic conditions, but are also resilient to future climate change. This will mean taking account of predicted changes in rainfall and increased temperature in building design and construction, not just for homes but all buildings, including schools, shops and offices. The precise features of climate change adaptation that are required will vary from place to place, but we will make sure that the process of locating and designing eco-towns respects the local circumstances, rather than setting a one-size-fits-all blueprint for what a future eco-town should look like.

There is also a strong expectation for eco-towns to have all their built-up parts, including housing fully within Flood Zone 1 (the lowest risk). A water cycle study should be completed for the eco-town and related areas, and this includes an assessment of flood risk and surface water drainage.

Homelessness

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been registered as homeless in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [210970]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. Constituency level information is not held centrally. The parliamentary constituency of Jarrow falls into two local authorities: South Tyneside and Gateshead.

Information collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night.

Summary tables showing the total number of households (a) accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and (b) in temporary accommodation, from 1997-98 to 2007-08, (c) rough sleeper estimates from 1998 to 2007, for each local authority, including South Tyneside and Gateshead, and (d) rough sleeper estimates by Government Office region are provided with this answer and have been placed in the Library.

Extracts from the table, showing data for South Tyneside and Gateshead, are provided as shown.

National and regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation is published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 12 June 2008, and provides national and regional acceptance figures in table 3, and temporary accommodation figures in table 7, both back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

Rough sleeping figures are also published on our website, back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/152200.xls

Table A: Number of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Local authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Gateshead	293	—	413	431	476	—	—	—	—	648	626
South Tyneside	150	—	202	225	321	379	595	573	286	294	213

Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation[1], March 1998 to March 2008

Local authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Gateshead	7	13	14	7	10	—	271	24	16	18	36
South Tyneside	56	61	48	5	6	13	51	26	18	22	11

Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), 1998-2007 (mid-year estimates[1])

Local authority	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Tyneside	1	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* over 60 years old were homeless in each of the last 10 years. [212353]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty, is not collected by specific ages, but since June 2006, data has been provided by the age band into which the applicant falls. These age bands include 16 to 24-year-olds, and 60 to 64-year-olds, 65 to 74-year-olds, and 75-year-olds and over. Data is provided in our Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

The latest release was published on 12 June 2008 and contains data from June 2006 up to March 2008. Table 10(b) of the release contains details of acceptances by age band:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

Local Authorities: Energy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities *(a)* have planned and *(b)* are implementing decentralised energy networks. [212859]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is aware of some local authorities which have taken steps, or are taking steps, to develop decentralised energy networks, for example Woking, and Southampton. The Department, however, does not hold information on this subject which is comprehensive across all local authorities.

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons her Department plans to abolish the needs test in the new edition of Planning Policy Statement 6. [212655]

Mr. Iain Wright: As set out in the Planning White Paper: "Planning for a Sustainable Future" in May 2007, the need test has proved to be a blunt instrument and can have the unintended effect of restricting competition and consumer choice. For example, a proposal on the edge of a town centre that would support the centre and bring wider benefits can be refused because the identified need is being met by an existing or proposed out of centre development.

The Government are reviewing the current approach in "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6) to assessing the impact of proposals outside town centres and will replace the need and impact tests with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and improves consumer choice. We intend to publish a consultation paper on proposed revisions to PPS6 later this summer.

Planning: Thames Gateway

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of the 2008-09 Thames Gateway Implementation Plan. [212787]

Caroline Flint: An exercise was undertaken with all the accountable bodies, local delivery partners in the Gateway and other Government Departments between February and May this year to understand their plans for implementing the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan published in November 2007. This has resulted in a clear set of agreed detailed baselines that provide the basis for more robust performance management of delivery and financial spend in the Thames Gateway. There are no plans to create or publish an overarching implementation plan or document.

Social Rented Housing: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projection she has made of the likely future change in numbers of available social housing units in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* South Ribble, *(c)* Bolton and *(d)* Preston. [212324]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social housing is funded by the Housing Corporation which in autumn 2007 published the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) 2008-11 Prospectus, which outlines priorities for funding over the three-year period.

40 per cent. of the initial North West allocation of the 2008-11 NAHP has already been committed, with a total of £8.55 million allocated to 19 accepted schemes in the local authorities areas identified. In contrast to previous programmes, the Housing Corporation has decided not to allocate all the available resources at the first bidding round. Additional allocations are timetabled to be made quarterly, from April 2008 to October 2010 (or when resources are fully committed), to enable housing associations to be more responsive to land acquisition and development opportunities.

The following table provides a breakdown of funding by local authority and Housing Corporation social housing type.

Sponsor LA Name	*Type*	*Total grant requested (£)*	*Number of units*
Bolton	LCHO	1,623,000	62
Bolton	RENT	2,316,196	44
Chorley	LCHO	600,000	30
Chorley	RENT	2,217,222	48
Preston	LCHO	150,000	5
Preston	RENT	1,650,000	15
South Ribble	—	0	0
Total		8,556,418	204

Notes:
LCHO - Low Cost Home Ownership
RENT - Socially Rented

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department has received on the law in relation to gypsy caravan sites; and if she will establish a review of the operation of the relevant legislation. [212253]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department receives a variety of correspondence in relation to Gypsy and Traveller policy. In December 2007, the independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers published its final report. It concluded that the Government's policy of firm but fair enforcement with proactive measures to increase site provision was the right approach. The Government published its response to the Task Group's report in April 2008. There are no plans to establish a review of the relevant Act(s).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions exist on building traveller sites on sites of special scientific interest. [212654]

Mr. Iain Wright: Circular 1/06, "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites", makes it clear that, in areas with nationally recognised designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, as with any other form of development, planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of the designation will not be compromised by the development.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether any *(a)* planning applications and *(b)* licensing applications have been submitted in relation to the Downing street complex in the last 24 months. [210892]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister on what date the euro changeover plan of Downing street was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version. [210891]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the current financial year. [210983]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office, like all Government Departments, is required by HM Treasury to map its resource accounting system to the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA), which is available on the Treasury website.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many domestic air flights members of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information undertook within mainland Britain in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [211112]

Phil Hope: The information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the conferences hosted by his Department in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of each conference. [211694]

Edward Miliband: Units within the Cabinet Office use conferences and other types of event as one of a number of ways of engaging with stakeholders to support a range of Cabinet Office policies and activities.

The Cabinet Office does not keep a separate central record of these conferences or spend on them. Therefore, this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department and its agency spent on branding and marketing activity in 2007-08. [212035]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office's accounts for the 2007-08 financial year are currently being audited so final figures on branding and marketing expenditure are not yet available.

Departmental Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of employees in the Prime Minister's Office who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if he will make a statement. [208367]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

62 per cent. of Cabinet Office staff were awarded a bonus in the 2007 pay award. This represents 884 people out of a total of 1,432 eligible staff and includes both SCS and non-SCS staff. Information on sexuality was not collected.

The following table shows the proportion of staff in each diversity group who received performance related bonuses:

	Percentage receiving bonus	*Number receiving bonus*	*Total eligible for bonus*
(a) Male	60.5	438	724
(b) Female	63.0	446	708
(c) Ethnic minority	59.7	80	134
(d) Disabled	46.9	23	49

Strategy Unit: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many members of the 10 Downing street Strategy Unit are seconded to each Government Department. [211786]

Mr. Watson: The Strategy Unit is based in the Cabinet Office. The Strategy Unit currently has 23.5 members of staff either on loan to or co-located with other Government Departments: the Department for Children, Schools and Families (seven); the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (six); the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (five); the Department of Health (2.5); HM Treasury (one); the Home Office (one); and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (one).

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Animal Welfare: Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the respective role and responsibilities are of *(a)* Trading Standards departments, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* others for the implementation of provision of European Council Directive 76/768 in respect of cosmetic experimentation on animals. [211597]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(a) Trading Standards departments have day to day enforcement responsibility for the Cosmetic Product Safety Regulations 2008, including requirements relating to animal testing.

(b) The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible for making the Cosmetic Product Safety Regulations and ensuring that proper enforcement procedures exist.

(c) No other bodies in the UK have legal responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of the Cosmetic Product Safety Regulations in relation to animal testing.

Balance of Trade: Bees

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the UK's balance of trade in bees and bee products was in each year since 1997 in standard prices; and if he will make a statement. [212419]

Mr. Thomas: The following table gives HMRC overseas trade statistics for the value of trade in honey and wax. Data for trade in live bees cannot be separated from trade in other animals.

£ million

	Exports of natural honey	*Exports of beeswax and other insect waxes*	*Imports of natural honey*	*Imports of beeswax and other insect waxes*	*Implicit balance*
1997	2.2	1.2	23.7	1.4	(21.7)
1998	1.6	0.8	20.9	1.2	(19.8)
1999	1.4	0.4	16.1	1.4	(15.6)
2000	1.5	0.6	16.4	1.2	(15.6)
2001	1.2	0.2	20.0	1.2	(19.8)
2002	2.8	0.4	34.1	1.6	(32.6)
2003	2.7	0.6	39.2	1.5	(37.4)
2004	3.2	0.6	39.7	1.3	(37.3)
2005	2.5	0.4	35.0	1.4	(33.4)
2006	2.9	0.6	38.5	1.8	(36.8)
2007	3.6	0.5	42.6	1.4	(39.9)

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the 2008-09 financial year. [210988]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's chart of accounts will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The chart of accounts for 2008-09 reflects the Department's structure for the year and will not necessarily reflect the 2007-08 structure, or that for future years. The chart shows the relationship between parent codes (used for preparing resource accounts) and children codes (used for more detailed management purposes). Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

Departmental Marketing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's advertising and marketing budget was in each of the last five years. [210266]

Mr. Thomas: Spending on advertising procured through the Central Office of Information in the last five financial years by the Department and the former DTI is as follows:

	£
2007-08	
Nuclear Energy Consultation 2007-08	149,634
Employing People 2007-08	77,447
National Minimum Wage 2007-08	588,499
Total	815,580

	£
2006-07	
Consumer Direct - Thomson Directories 2006-07	581,424
DTI Classified Recruitment 2006-07	11,457
ACAS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006-07	228,949
Total	821,830

	£
2005-06	
Consumer Direct 2005-06	1,447,850
DTI Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2005-06	31,099
SBS Business Link 2005-06	1,502,301
New National Minimum Wage 2005-06	369,603
Directgov - DTI Employee Franchise 2005-06	127,690
Total	3,478,543

	£
2004-05	
Consumer Direct 2004-05	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004-05	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004-05	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising 2004-05	41,007
New Minimum Wage 2004-05	315,754
Renewable Energy 200-05	15,542
Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2004-05	30,494
Firework Safety 2004-05 - (media only)	188,480
DTI - Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004-05	3,255
Total	2,009,800

	£
2003-04	
Parental Rights 2003-04	1,106,186
Import Licence Announcements 2003-04	130,470
Ex Miner Compensation 2003-04	384,875
SBS Public Notice Advertising 2003-04	84,778
SBS Business Link 2003-04	882,188
DTI National Minimum Wage 2003-04	306,360
Quality Mark Scheme 2003-04	189,973
DTI EERA 13 2003-04	422,177
DTI UK Online for Business 2003-04	163,965
DTI Fireworks SMS Internet 2003-04	18,603
DTI UK Online for Business Internet 2003-04	230,914
DTI Consumer Gateway Internet 2003-04	37,686
UK Trade and Investment 2003-04	194,784
SBS Keyword 2003-04	20,799
ACAS Awareness 2003-04	1,070,601
Total	5,244,359

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212436]

Mr. Thomas: There are three unions representing members of staff in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and its agencies. These are the PDA, Prospect and the Public and Commercial Services Union.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date the euro changeover plan of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each. [210835]

Mr. Thomas: BERR's Euro Transition Plan, which covers the core Department and its agencies, was written in the autumn of 2004. Some amendments were made following endorsement by the management board in December 2004.

The approach it sets out remains valid and it has not been changed since then.

There are no plans at present to place a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 387W, on Fairtrade initiative, what the value was of Fairtrade produce purchased at his Department's staff catering facilities in each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of total revenue this represented. [209016]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not held by the Department and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of all foreign direct inward investment projects was facilitated by UK trade and investment in the last year for which figures are available. [208242]

Mr. Thomas: In 2006-07, UK trade and investment (UKTI) facilitated 35 per cent. of all foreign direct inward investment projects, according to the data compiled by UKTI.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many foreign direct investment projects facilitated by UK Trade and Investment since its inception have involved takeovers by foreign firms. [208248]

Mr. Thomas: Since its inception in 2003, UK Trade and Investment has had some level of involvement in 108 acquisitions by foreign owned companies.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether home information packs have been commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to market a residential property. [211928]

Mr. Thomas: None. The requirement to prepare Home Information packs applies to the marketing for sale of residential properties. This Department and its executive agencies has not been involved in any such transactions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter of 19 March 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on online privacy. [209965]

Mr. Thomas: My noble friend the Minister for Business and Competitiveness responded to the hon. Member on 11 June.

Public Bodies: Public Participation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department has issued on the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum periods for written consultations by public bodies. [210833]

Mr. Thomas: The Government has a code of practice on consultation which sets out how central Government's formal, written consultation exercises should be run. The first criterion of the code states that such consultation exercises should last for a minimum of 12 weeks. The code acknowledges that there will sometimes be circumstances that require a consultation period of less than 12 weeks but states that this should be the exception and should be avoided wherever possible.

No guidance exists on maximum periods for written consultations.

Public bodies outside of central Government are free to adopt their own approaches to consultation.

Retail Trade: Fees and Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the maximum amount is that *(a)* online retailers and *(b)* high street retailers may charge consumers for using a (i) credit and (ii) debit card to make purchases. [208438]

Mr. Thomas: There is no prescribed maximum amount that retailers can charge consumers for using credit cards or debit cards to make purchases. However, under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, such charges, where material, must be transparent and not misleading.

Salmon: Imports

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Government has made of the likely effects of the removal of the minimum import price for salmon. [212850]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government, in close consultation with the Scottish Executive and the Irish Government and the industry, made a detailed assessment of the likely effects of the removal of the minimum import price for salmon as proposed by the European Commission. In our assessment removal was likely to lead to a recurrence of dumping by Norwegian exporters. This assessment was submitted to the European Commission as part of its Interim Review of the measures. The European Commission however concluded that dumping was unlikely to recur and was supported in this view by the other 25 of member states.

UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the division of responsibility is between the UK Trade and Investment offices in London and Glasgow. [210445]

Mr. Thomas: Our headquarters' operations in London and Glasgow are primarily concerned with front line delivery for business. The following are based at UKTI's Glasgow office:

UKTI's Enquiry Service;

The Tradeshow Access Programme;

UKTI trade support for the Oil and Gas Sector and the Advanced Engineering Sector.

The remainder of our HQ operations are based in London (except for a small presence in Cambridge).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which trades unions represent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [212489]

Kevin Brennan: There are currently three trade unions recognised in my Department and its agencies and who represent members of my staff. They are the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, which has a membership of around 1,240 staff (about 46 per cent.) with the FDA representing around 160 senior staff (about 6 per cent.); and Prospect, representing a small number of specialists such as information officers, economists, statisticians and accountants.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children achieved the national standard in their Key Stage 1 exams in each school in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral; and what the national average mark was. [212822]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table, which I have also placed in the Library.

Key Stage 1 teacher assessment results for all maintained schools in Wirral LA, 2007

			Percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 or above			
LA	*DCSF No.*	*School name*	*Reading*	*Writing*	*Mathematics*	*Science*
344	2000	Bedford Drive Primary School	73	73	91	100
344	2001	Bidston Village CE (Controlled) Primary School	67	67	73	78
344	2021	Woodlands Primary School	72	69	81	83
344	2048	Devonshire Park Primary School	84	71	93	84
344	2100	New Brighton Primary School	82	83	93	93
344	2101	Mount Primary School	89	84	95	100
344	2102	Liscard Primary School	80	78	81	81
344	2104	St. George's Primary School	96	91	97	100
344	2107	Riverside Primary School	77	77	87	93
344	2108	Kingsway Primary School	70	75	85	100
344	2109	Poulton Primary School	74	70	87	91
344	2110	Park Primary School	86	86	86	93
344	2111	Somerville Primary School	70	52	81	83
344	2112	Eastway Primary School	78	83	91	91
344	2115	Castleway Primary School	68	64	77	68
344	2116	Sandbrook Primary School	76	76	82	88
344	2117	Greenleas Primary School	89	83	91	96
344	2118	Lingham Primary School	79	82	91	97
344	2200	Stanton Road Primary School	94	94	97	94
344	2201	Woodslee Primary School	96	89	93	89
344	2204	Town Lane Infant School	96	99	99	100
344	2205	Grove Street Primary School	69	75	90	88
344	2209	Bromborough Pool Primary School	100	100	100	100
344	2212	Thornton Hough Primary School	84	89	89	89
344	2214	Mendell Primary School	91	91	96	96

Key Stage 1 teacher assessment results for all maintained schools in Wirral LA, 2007

			Percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 or above			
LA	*DCSF No.*	*School name*	*Reading*	*Writing*	*Mathematics*	*Science*
344	2215	Brookhurst Primary School	97	97	100	100
344	2217	Raeburn Primary School	94	90	100	100
344	2218	Brackenwood Infant School	95	97	97	98
344	2220	Greasby Infant School	95	97	98	98
344	2221	West Kirby Primary School	92	95	100	100
344	2224	Irby Primary School	97	81	97	97
344	2226	Black Horse Hill Infant School	91	94	100	100
344	2227	Brookdale Primary School	89	89	92	100
344	2228	Pensby Infant School	92	96	92	100
344	2229	Barnston Primary School	98	98	98	100
344	2231	Poulton Lancelyn Primary School	90	90	97	97
344	2234	Great Meols Primary School	96	95	98	98
344	2238	Gayton Primary School	95	95	95	98
344	2244	Egremont Primary School	79	55	88	93
344	2249	Portland Primary School	69	69	73	81
344	2250	Heswall Primary School	83	80	93	100
344	2252	Fender Primary School	62	50	62	65
344	2254	Manor Primary School	82	77	91	91
344	2255	Mersey Park Primary School	69	79	92	92
344	2256	Overchurch Infant School	82	85	91	93
344	2258	Rock Ferry Primary School	72	68	84	88
344	2260	Woodchurch Road Primary School	94	92	98	94
344	2261	Cathcart Street Primary School	93	86	93	93
344	2262	Cole Street Primary School	45	36	77	86
344	2263	Well Lane Primary School	64	27	64	55
344	2264	Thingwall Primary School	90	90	100	100
344	2265	Arrowe Hill Primary School	89	89	89	100
344	2266	Church Drive Primary School	85	85	93	96
344	2267	Pensby Park Primary School	71	59	88	100
344	2268	Leasowe Primary School	70	55	75	95
344	2274	Heygarth Primary School	100	94	100	97
344	2275	Bidston Avenue Primary School	93	93	93	98
344	2276	Millfields Primary School	72	72	78	67
344	2278	Townfield Primary School	90	90	97	98
344	2279	Hillside Primary School	72	72	89	100
344	3006	St. Mary's CofE Primary School	78	89	89	89
344	3009	West Kirby St. Bridget's CofE Primary School	98	98	98	98
344	3010	Hoylake Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	86	79	86	82
344	3011	Birkenhead Christ Church CofE Primary School	74	57	57	78
344	3300	Oxton St. Saviour's CofE Aided Primary School	100	97	97	100
344	3304	Woodchurch CofE Primary School	80	60	70	97
344	3321	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Upton	98	93	96	93
344	3322	St. Peter's Catholic Primary School	83	52	41	52
344	3324	St. Paul's Catholic Primary School	83	42	92	100
344	3330	Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School	95	95	95	95
344	3331	St. Alban's Catholic Primary School	69	53	82	86
344	3333	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wallasey	63	70	87	87
344	3335	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	83	86	89	83
344	3336	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	60	60	90	100
344	3337	Moreton Christ Church CofE Primary School	94	92	98	100
344	3350	St. Andrew's CofE Aided Primary School	87	87	100	100
344	3351	Thurstaston Dawpool CofE Primary School	90	87	93	100
344	3352	Heswall St. Peter's CofE Primary School	96	96	96	100
344	3361	Christ The King Catholic Primary School	100	82	100	100
344	3362	St. John's Catholic Infant School	93	88	89	89
344	3364	Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School	95	88	90	92
344	3365	Ladymount Catholic Primary School	93	89	96	100
344	3366	The Priory Parish CofE Primary School	58	63	79	100
344	3367	Our Lady and St. Edward's Catholic Primary School	67	67	81	74
344	3368	Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	57	60	60	73
344	3369	St. Anne's Catholic Primary School	72	59	90	90
344	3370	St. Laurence's Catholic Primary School	70	40	80	90

Key Stage 1 teacher assessment results for all maintained schools in Wirral LA, 2007

			Percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 or above			
LA	*DCSF No.*	*School name*	*Reading*	*Writing*	*Mathematics*	*Science*
344	3371	St. Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School	81	75	94	94
344	3372	St. Werburgh's Catholic Primary School	83	83	91	96
344	3373	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Birkenhead	95	87	93	93
344	3374	Prenton Primary School	98	88	97	92
344	7000	Hayfield School	0	0	0	0
344	7005	Elleray Park School	0	0	0	0
344	7010	Gilbrook School	33	33	33	33
344	7014	The Lyndale School	0	0	0	0
344	7017	Stanley School	0	0	0	0
Wirral LA			84	81	89	92
England (LA maintained only)			84	80	90	89
England (all schools)			84	80	90	89

Head Teachers: Pay

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary for *(a)* head teachers and *(b)* deputy head teachers is in (i) Bournemouth and (ii) England. [212748]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available for by local authority.

The following table provides the average salary of head teachers and deputy head teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England, March 2006 the latest information available.

Average salary(£) of full-time head and deputy head teachers in local authority maintained schools—Coverage: England; Year: 2006[1]

	Head teachers	*Deputy head teachers*
2006[1]	52,100	44,600

[1] Provisional
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Pupils: Females

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls aged *(a)* 14, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 17 and *(e)* 18 years attended schools in England in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) ethnicity and (ii) religion. [212953]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the tables.

Religion of pupils is not collected centrally. The number of girls aged 14 to 18 by religious character of their school has been provided in the final tables.

Secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of girls aged 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 by ethnic group—Position in January each year 2003 to 2008 (provisional)—England

	2003				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	242,900	229,170	75,770	58,520	2,770
White British	236,130	222,940	73,070	56,400	2,550
Irish	1,200	1,100	470	380	30
Traveller of Irish heritage	100	60	20	20	0
Gypsy/Roma	170	130	20	10	[7]—
Any other White background	5,310	4,930	2,200	1,700	190
Mixed	5,790	5,230	1,630	1,080	90
White and Black Caribbean	2,170	1,920	390	230	30
White and Black African	450	400	130	90	20
White and Asian	1,030	900	420	290	10
Any other Mixed background	2,140	2,010	700	470	30
Asian	17,650	17,160	7,900	6,420	1,160
Indian	6,760	6,840	3,570	3,220	430
Pakistani	6,580	6,220	2,590	1,920	470
Bangladeshi	2,780	2.640	910	680	150

Secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: Number of girls aged 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 by ethnic group—Position in January each year 2003 to 2008 (provisional)—England

			2003		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
Any other Asian background	1,530	1.460	830	590	110
Black	9,850	9,610	2,890	1,940	520
Black Caribbean	4,530	4,340	1,120	690	130
Black African	4,080	4,100	1,460	1.040	340
Any other Black background	1,240	1,170	310	220	40
Chinese	980	960	580	550	80
Any other ethnic group	2,100	1,920	860	670	110
Classified[4]	279,270	264,050	89,630	69,170	4,720
Unclassified[5]	14,230	14,930	5,450	4,680	360
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	43,140	41,110	16,560	12,770	2,170
Total	293,490	278,980	95,080	73,850	5,080

			2004		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	241,840	241,350	79,100	60,950	2,990
White British	234,750	234.610	76,040	58,810	2,770
Irish	1,200	1,150	480	390	20
Traveller of Irish heritage	80	60	10	10	0
Gypsy/Roma	160	160	20	10	[7]—
Any other White background	5,650	5,360	2.540	1,730	200
Mixed	6,330	5,810	2,040	1,380	130
White and Black Caribbean	2,330	2,150	550	290	30
White and Black African	580	470	190	120	10
White and Asian	1,170	1,070	490	370	30
Any other Mixed background	2,250	2.130	810	600	50
Asian	17,090	17,680	8,290	6,740	1,330
Indian	6,320	6.830	3,810	3,230	520
Pakistani	6,390	6,510	2.600	2,070	530
Bangladeshi	2,710	2,760	960	710	170
Any other Asian background	1.670	1,590	920	730	110
Black	10,480	10,040	3,290	2,330	590
Black Caribbean	4,590	4,450	1,180	820	170
Black African	4,670	4,400	1,740	1,270	380
Any other Black background	1,220	1,200	360	240	40
Chinese	1,090	1,030	590	560	100
Any other ethnic group	2,240	2,110	1,010	730	160
Classified[4]	279,050	278,010	94,310	72,680	5,300
Unclassified[5]	10,380	11,020	4,230	3,490	300
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	44,300	43,400	18,270	13,870	2,530
Total	289,430	289,030	98,540	76,170	5,600

			2005		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	245,430	238,310	81,880	63,140	3,300
White British	238,250	231,410	78,690	60,740	3,070
Irish	1,160	1,130	510	390	30
Traveller of Irish heritage	80	70	20	10	0
Gypsy/Roma	150	160	10	10	[7]—
Any other White background	5,780	5,540	2,660	1,980	200
Mixed	6,720	6,210	2,170	1,610	150
White and Black Caribbean	2.610	2,290	590	400	40
White and Black African	630	610	200	160	20
White and Asian	1,220	1,140	510	400	30
Any other Mixed background	2,260	2,180	860	650	60
Asian	17,760	17,100	8,610	7,000	1,400
Indian	6,430	6,350	3,820	3,380	510
Pakistani	6,530	6,350	2,770	2,060	550
Bangladeshi	2,970	2,670	1,030	760	170
Any other Asian background	1.840	1,730	980	810	170
Black	10,700	10,550	3,430	2,550	650
Black Caribbean	4,480	4,470	1,190	860	180
Black African	5,000	4,950	1,860	1,430	430
Any other Black background	1,220	1,140	390	260	50
Chinese	1,040	1,130	650	570	110
Any other ethnic group	2,410	2,360	1,180	870	190
Classified[4]	284,060	275,670	97,920	75,730	5,790
Unclassified[5]	8,740	9,560	4,110	3,150	310
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	45,810	44,260	19,230	14,980	2,720
Total	292,800	285,230	102,030	78,880	6,100

			2006		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	249,520	242,630	82,330	66,050	3,100
White British	242,020	235,360	78,760	63,450	2,840
Irish	1,130	1,120	490	420	30
Traveller of Irish heritage	90	60	10	10	0
Gypsy/Roma	190	140	20	10	[7]—
Any other White background	6,090	5,950	3,060	2,160	240
Mixed	7,510	6,800	2,400	1,820	160
White and Black Caribbean	2,960	2,610	620	450	40
White and Black African	680	640	230	160	20
White and Asian	1,380	1,240	580	470	40
Any other Mixed background	2,490	2,320	980	740	70
Asian	18,300	17,930	8,680	7,420	1,350
Indian	6,370	6,470	3,740	3,460	520
Pakistani	6,840	6,530	2,790	2,240	490
Bangladeshi	2,880	2,960	990	820	170
Any other Asian background	2,220	1,960	1,170	900	180
Black	11,010	10,920	3,640	2,720	720

	2006				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
Black Caribbean	4,340	4,360	1,200	830	190
Black African	5,440	5,310	2,050	1,600	470
Any other Black background	1,230	1,250	390	290	60
Chinese	1,020	1,080	710	630	100
Any other ethnic group	2,410	2,360	1,160	910	160
Classified[4]	289,760	281,720	98,920	79,530	5,600
Unclassified[5]	6,420	7,160	3,600	2,810	230
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	47,740	46,360	20,160	16,080	2,760
Total	296,180	288,880	102,520	82,350	5,830

	2007				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	246,680	246,390	85,310	66,220	3,750
White British	238,740	238,670	81,480	63,330	3,440
Irish	1,080	1,100	510	400	20
Traveller of Irish heritage	80	70	10	10	0
Gypsy/Roma	250	180	20	10	[7]—
Any other White background	6,520	6,370	3,290	2,470290	—
Mixed	8,060	7,460	2,680	2,000210	—
White and Black Caribbean	3,070	2,870	750	480	50
White and Black African	800	680	250	190	40
White and Asian	1,490	1,400	630	510	30
Any other Mixed background	2,700	2,510	1,050	820	90
Asian	18,860	18,540	9,010	7,500	1,540
Indian	6,400	6,490	3,720	3,370560	—
Pakistani	7,220	6,850	2,800	2,280580	—
Bangladeshi	2,840	2,870	1,170	790	180
Any other Asian background	2,400	2,330	1,310	1,070230	—
Black	11,370	11,210	3,880	2,960760	—
Black Caribbean	4,090	4,270	1,250	920	170
Black African	5,950	5,710	2,210	1,710540	—
Any other Black background	1,330	1,230	420	330	50
Chinese	1,070	1,080	710	690	120
Any other ethnic group	2,600	2,490	1,230	960	210
Classified[4]	288,630	287,170	102,820	80,320	6,590
Unclassified[5]	4,910	5,400	2,900	2,440260	—
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	49,890	48,510	21,340	16,990	3,160
Total	293,540	292,570	105,710	82,760	6,850

	2008 (provisional)				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White	236,180	243,520	85,850	68,360	4,100

	2008 (provisional)				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
White British	226,940	234,640	81,550	64,970	3,680
Irish	940	1,070	490	420	30
Traveller of Irish heritage	80	60	10	[7]—	[7]—
Gypsy/Roma	290	230	20	10	[7]—
Any other White background	7,930	7,520	3,790	2,960	390
Mixed	8,460	8,010	2,950	2,190	210
White and Black Caribbean	3,210	3,030	840	560	50
White and Black African	840	790	250	200	20
White and Asian	1,570	1,480	700	530	40
Any other Mixed background	2,840	2,710	1,170	910	100
Asian	19,840	19,250	9,580	7,850	1,610
Indian	6,470	6,510	3,910	3,340	530
Pakistani	7,590	7,260	3,040	2,320	610
Bangladeshi	3,020	2,850	1,170	980	180
Any other Asian background	2,760	2,620	1,460	1,210	290
Black	11,910	11,480	4,260	3,190	860
Black Caribbean	4,110	4,000	1,280	980	210
Black African	6,490	6,130	2,540	1,870	580
Any other Black background	1,310	1,350	440	330	80
Chinese	1,060	1,110	680	680	130
Any other ethnic group	2,810	2,650	1,330	1,050	230
Classified[4]	280,260	286,020	104,650	83,320	7,120
Unclassified[5]	4,070	4,230	2,150	1,920	230
Minority Ethnic Pupils[6]	53,320	51,380	23,100	18,350	3,450
Total	284,320	290,250	106,800	85,240	7,350

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes City technology colleges and academies.
[4] Pupils aged 14, 15, 16. 17 and 18 were classified according to ethnic group. Age at start of academic year (31 August).
[5] Information refused or not obtained.
[6] Includes all pupils classified as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.
[7] Less than five.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source.

School Census

Secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of girls aged 14, 15. 16, 17 and 18 by religious character—Position in January each year 2003 to 2008 (provisional—England

	2003				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	249,330	236,690	77,350	59,930	4,130
Church of England	13,050	12,530	5,120	4,080	270
Roman Catholic	28,700	27,500	11,110	8,520	620
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	1,760	1,630	1,100	970	30
Jewish	540	520	350	320	20
Muslim	50	60	40	30	[4]—
Sikh	30	30	10	10	10
Other	30	30	[4]—	0	0
Total	293,490	278,980	95,080	73,850	5,080

			2004		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	245,870	245,460	80,320	61,670	4,600
Church of England	13,220	13,020	5,450	4,250	260
Roman Catholic	27,880	28,060	11,200	8,890	680
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	1,980	1,990	1,210	1,060	30
Jewish	380	400	320	260	20
Muslim	60	50	40	40	10
Sikh	30	30	20	10	[4]—
Other	20	30	0	0	0
Total	289,430	289,030	98,540	76,170	5,600

			2005		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	248,190	241,730	83,080	63,800	4,970
Church of England	13,340	13,310	5,660	4,580	290
Roman Catholic	28,530	27,530	11,610	9,070	750
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	2,140	2,140	1,280	1,100	60
Jewish	430	410	350	280	10
Muslim	120	60	40	40	10
Sikh	30	30	20	20	[4]—
Other	30	20	[4]—	0	0
Total	292,800	285,230	102,030	78,880	6,100

			2006		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	250,680	244,180	83,410	66,490	4,770
Church of England	14,090	13,430	5,840	4,780	310
Roman Catholic	28,330	28,190	11,410	9,490	710
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	2,470	2,420	1,460	1,200	40
Jewish	440	480	350	340	10
Muslim	120	110	30	40	10
Sikh	30	30	20	20	[4]—
Other	20	30	0	0	0
Total	296,180	288,880	102,520	82,350	5,830

			2007		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	247,440	246,920	86,060	66,880	5,670
Church of England	14,130	14,090	5,860	4,960	350
Roman Catholic	28,320	28,100	11,880	9,300	760
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	2,890	2,800	1,440	1,270	60
Jewish	490	440	400	310	10
Muslim	200	180	70	30	10
Sikh	60	30	20	20	0
Other	20	20	[4]—	0	0
Total	293,540	292,570	105,710	82,760	6,850

			2008 (provisional)		
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
No Religious character	238,700	244,230	86,630	68,990	6,040
Church of England	13,990	13,920	6,010	4,870	370
Roman Catholic	27,380	27,920	11,950	9,610	850
Methodist	0	0	0	0	0
Other Christian Faith[3]	3,380	3,290	1,770	1,370	80
Jewish	480	480	330	340	10

	2008 (provisional)				
	Girls aged 14	*Girls aged 15*	*Girls aged 16*	*Girls aged 17*	*Girls aged 18*
Muslim	340	330	80	60	10
Sikh	30	60	30	20	[4]—
Other	30	20	0	0	0
Total	284,320	290,250	106,800	85,240	7,350

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[3] Includes pupils of mixed denomination or other Christian beliefs.

[4] Less than five.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Edubase

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers qualified for performance-related pay in each year since it was introduced. [212749]

Jim Knight: The award of performance related pay is a matter for schools to determine locally and in the interests of reducing burdens on schools we do not require the reporting of individual discretionary payments. This information is not collected centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Abortions

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much he has allocated to tackling unsafe abortions in Africa; and on what projects this funding is being committed. [211825]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) main allocation to tackling unsafe abortions in Africa is £7.5 million through the 'Safe Abortion Action Fund', administered by the International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF) and Ipas. This investment aims to strengthen regional organisations and networks that advocate for safe abortion; support advocacy and production of policy relevant research; have an impact at country level and regional level on policy change and service delivery; and increase utilisation of quality safe abortion and post-abortion services.

DFID also provides significant resources via government budgets in Africa to strengthen countries' health systems including sexual and reproductive health services (e.g. in 2006-07, £257.6 million to general budget support and £21.2 million direct to government health budgets).

DFID also supports African countries to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and supplies, and sex education. For example, DFID has committed £100 million over five years to United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to improve access to family planning and reproductive health supplies. In Ethiopia, DFID had distributed 1.3 million condoms by the end of August 2007. DFID is also funding a £35 million programme with the Population Council called 'transitions to adulthood', which is helping nine developing countries—including South Africa, Uganda and Kenya—to develop better curricula for gender education, including sex education.

Africa: Economic Growth

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the role of higher economic growth rates is in meeting the millennium development goals in Africa; and what recent steps he has taken to support the rate of economic growth in Africa. [211812]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Economic growth is essential for the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs). MDG 1, by definition, requires growth in the incomes of the poor. Sustainable achievement of the other MDGs requires African countries to generate the resources, through economic growth, to provide schools, hospitals, roads, sanitation and safe drinking water to their people.

Better infrastructure is a key constraint to faster growth in Africa. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa is facilitating more effective infrastructure investment and there has been a 20 per cent. increase in investment since 2005. DFID increased its support to the Consortium secretariat in 2007. The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Facility (EAIF), which is supported by DFID, facilitates and leverages private sector financing. As of December 2007 the facility had loan commitments totalling $384.5 million (£192 million) in 15 projects. EAIF projects have led to private sector commitments of more than $4 billion (£2 billion). The government of Rwanda has asked DFID to help it with 'Growth Analytics', to prioritise actions to help get higher growth rates. This promising work has led other African countries to seek DFID's advice.

Further examples can be found in DFID's Annual Report, available at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average rate of economic growth was in sub-Saharan Africa in the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the contribution of the UK to such economic development. [211818]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa over the course of 2005-2007 averaged 6.3 per cent. per annum. The same figure for 1997-2002 was 4 per cent. This is encouraging, but growth is still below the 7 per cent. rate which is thought necessary to achieve the millennium development goals and there are concerns about the sustainability of growth in Africa.

UK aid is supporting economic development in a number of ways. For example, the Department for International Development (DFID) played a key role in the establishment and successful launch of the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) in 2006 to help strengthen Africa's business environment. Since then, ICF-funded projects have started in Rwanda, the East African Community, Lesotho, Liberia and Tanzania.

Better economic infrastructure (energy, transport, communications and water resources) is essential for faster growth. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa is facilitating more effective infrastructure investment and there has been a substantial increase in investment since 2005. DFID increased its support to the Consortium secretariat in 2007. Further examples can be found in DFID's Annual Report, available at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Africa: Maternal Mortality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to reduce maternal mortality rates in Africa. [211824]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Reducing maternal mortality in Africa is a UK Government priority. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to support partner governments to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities through DFID-funded country programmes, through regional and global advocacy, and through funding global and regional research, in line with the African Union Maputo Plan of Action on Maternal health and the DFID strategy 'Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action'.

Better health systems and services are essential to reducing maternal mortality. DFID will spend £6 billion by 2015 for these purposes, a significant proportion in Africa.

DFID has committed £100 million over five years to United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to improve access to family planning and reproductive health supplies. Africa will be a major recipient. At a country level in Africa, DFID is currently funding a range of health programmes that will help reduce maternal mortality, including a £100 million commitment in Malawi (over six years) £140 million commitment in Nigeria (over six years), a £24 million commitment in Zimbabwe (over four years), and £50 million commitment in Sierra Leone (over 10 years). Substantial funding is also provided through general budget support in some countries, as in Tanzania, where 11 per cent. of DFID's £105 million expenditure through this channel was used to finance the health sector.

African Enterprise Challenge Fund

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to the African Enterprise Challenge Fund; and what assessment he has made of its impact on the region. [211795]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £10 million over three years to the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa for the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund. The fund became operational early June 2008 following the recruitment of a fund manager. It is, therefore, too early to assess its impact.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [212003]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Without incurring disproportionate cost it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the cost of sickness pay.

Departmental Trade Unions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which trades unions represent members of staff in his Department. [212479]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises two trade unions as representatives of our UK based staff—the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDA).

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how funds released by the revocation or reduction of aid allocations to overseas governments are treated. [211701]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Any funds not disbursed to overseas governments are reallocated to other programmes.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how and when his Department announces allocations of UK development aid. [211702]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The allocation of UK development assistance is announced and published by HM Treasury at the settlement of the comprehensive spending review. This information was last published in October 2007 and is currently available on the HM Treasury website.

DFID publishes more detailed information about annual aid allocations in the departmental annual report which is published in May of each year.

Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the purpose of the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact is; and what its terms of reference are. [211721]

Mr. Thomas: The Committee has been established in order to strengthen and assure the independence of the evaluation function in DFID and the use of evaluation results to enhance delivery and impact of UK development assistance.

The terms of reference can be found here:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/performance/files/iacdi-tors.pdf

Mozambique: Children

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations his Department is working with in Mozambique to provide support for pregnant women and children under five years old. [211804]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Government of Mozambique to support the health of mothers and children under the age of five. DFID as the focal donor for the health sector in Mozambique co-ordinates the support of 26 agencies (including DFID) who provide funding to the health sector. These partners are the World Bank, World Health Organisation, USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, Global Fund for Aids TB and Malaria (GFATM), the Clinton Foundation, President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), Swiss Development Co-operation, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Italy, Ireland, France, Finland, Flanders, the EC, Denmark, Canada, Spain and Catalunia.

In addition, DFID provides project support through the Malaria Consortium to support the Government of Mozambique to achieve its target of having 95 per cent. of pregnant women and children under the age of five sleeping under a treated mosquito net in the three northern provinces. The DFID programme runs from 2005 to 2010 with a budget of £8.5 million and is being implemented by Malaria Consortium in five provinces.

In the health sector UK development assistance has enabled the Government to meet its 2007 target of an extra 35,000 women giving birth in a clinic, and ensured that 64 per cent. of children under one were fully immunized against five priority vaccine-preventable diseases.

Nepal: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of his Department's contribution to poverty reduction in Nepal; and what programmes exist to sustain economic growth in Nepal. [211730]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Recent poverty reduction in Nepal has been impressive. Despite the conflict it reduced from 42 per cent. in 1995-96 to 31 per cent. in 2003-04, the latest year for which data are available. A key driver of poverty reduction, according to the World Bank, was better rural infrastructure, in which DFID has invested £42 million since 2000 to build 1,500 km of rural roads and 2,200 bridges. We will invest a further £28 million in rural infrastructure over the next three years. DFID has supported poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth in other ways. In the last five years we have invested £20 million in education and £50 million in health, contributing to a 5 percentage point increase in school enrolments and a halving of child mortality over the last decade. DFID has invested £12 million over the last five years in rural livelihoods programmes which have benefited 550,000 people and lifted 130 thousand people out of poverty. DFID's investment of £19 million over 10 years in community forestry will help almost one fifth of the population of Nepal to make a better and more sustainable living from forest resources.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development study commissioned by his Department on promoting partnership in development work. [211704]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Effective partnerships based on shared commitments to poverty reduction are important to achieving positive development objectives. DFID regards work done with partners in the OECD as a vital tool in promoting effective partnerships. We will continue to support the work done by the OECD and others.

Despite thorough checks in London and with the OECD in Paris, we are not aware to which report this question refers.

Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* criteria are used and *(b)* process is followed in determining whether breaches of aid partnership commitments should give use to (i) revocation and (ii) reduction of aid allocations. [211706]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The joint DFID, FCO and HM Treasury policy paper "Partnerships for poverty reduction: rethinking conditionality" (2005) states that a successful aid partnership depends on shared commitments to:

Poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs

Respecting human rights and other international obligations

Strengthening financial management and accountability

The UK will consider reducing or interrupting aid if partner countries breach these commitments. Table 5.2 of DFID's annual report provides details of changes to programmes as a result of a breach of conditions during 2007-08. The report is available through DFID's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

The UK conditionality policy commits us to agreeing with partner Governments in advance a process for considering whether there has been a breach. We aim to have a substantial period of discussion with the partner Government to enable us to explain our concerns and understand their position. We are committed to greater transparency about conditionality by making public our decisions and the evidence on which they are based, as we do in DFID's annual report.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what process his Department follows for assessing the performance of its aid projects; and what definition he uses of success in assessing aid project outcomes. [211709]

Mr. Thomas: All of the Department for International Development's (DFID) projects and programmes identify what problems they will address, what the money will be spent on and who will benefit to ensure that they have as much impact as possible in improving the lives of poor people.

DFID's projects and programmes of £1 million or more include a measurement framework against which performance is monitored. Operational projects are scored annually throughout their duration to assess the likelihood of achieving their intended objectives. Projects are then scored on completion according to whether they achieved their intended objectives. See table 1 as follows.

Projects are monitored routinely to check that they are on track by active management by DFID's regional divisions.

Table 1

Score	*DFID description*	*Achievement of outputs*
1	Likely to be completely achieved	The outputs/purpose are well on the way to completion (or completed)
2	Likely to be largely achieved	There is good progress towards purpose completion and most outputs have been achieved, particularly the most important
3	Likely to be partly achieved	Only partial achievement of the purpose is likely and/or achievement of some outputs
4	Only likely to be achieved to a very limited extent	Purpose unlikely to be achieved but a few outputs likely to be achieved
5	Unlikely to be achieved	No progress on outputs or purpose
X	Too early to judge	It is impossible to say whether there has been any progress towards the final achievement of outputs or purpose

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place a copy in the Library of each institutional strategy paper for multilateral aid organisations. [211717]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We will place copies of all current institutional strategies in the Library by 30 June. These are already in the public domain. Some are due for renewal in 2008. As we agree new institutional strategies, we will also place these in the Library.

Overseas Aid: Standards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what obligations arise from adherence to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; and who the signatories to that declaration are, broken down by *(a)* nationality and *(b)* status. [211712]

Mr. Thomas: The Paris Declaration commits signatories to meet, by 2010, 12 indicators which are guided by five principles:

(a) Ownership: Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and co-ordinate development actions;

(b) Alignment: Donors base their overall support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures;

(c) Harmonisation: Donors' actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective;

(d) Managing for results: Managing resources and improved decision-making for results;

(e) Mutual accountability: Donors and partners are accountable for development results.

Details of signatories to the Paris Declaration can be found through the OECD-DAC's website

http://www.oecd.orq/document/22/0.3343.en_2649_33721_36074966_1_1_1_1.00.html.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the relative performance of donors who have signed up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. [211713]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Monitoring of the Paris Declaration is carried out by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) through a survey, completed by both partner countries and donors.

The first survey was carried out in 2006. The survey showed that DFID has already met or is on track to meet its targets by 2010. More generally, it showed that, while a number of efforts are being made to implement the Paris Declaration, both donors and partners need to step up their efforts if the targets are to be met by 2010. Priorities for donors include better alignment with country priorities, reducing transactions costs, better use of performance assessment frameworks to promote managing for results, and mutual accountability (where donors and partner governments are both accountable for delivering on commitments made).

The second survey was conducted earlier this year. Results will be published ahead of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness taking place in Accra in September. Details of the survey can be found through the DAC website

http://www.oecd.orq/document/20/0.3343.en_2649_15577209_38521876_1_1_1_1.00.html.

Sierra Leone: Water Supply

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there is a strategy in place for UK aid aimed at improving the provision of safe water and sanitation services to Sierra Leone; and what agencies his Department is working with on this matter. [211806]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has approved a £32 million programme over five years to improve the provision of safe and sustainable water and sanitation in Sierra Leone. The programme aims to strengthen the Government's ability to provide water and sanitation services and deliver real benefits for the poor—enabling an additional 1.5 million people to access safe water and sanitation.

The principal partner for this nationwide programme is the Government of Sierra Leone. We are also working with UNICEF and NGOs; including PLAN, Oxfam, and Goal.

South Asia: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes are being implemented by his Department to promote equality and the empowerment of women in the South Asia region. [211731]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is prioritising equality and women's empowerment in a variety of ways. Firstly DFID provides significant funding for education and health sectors, which can have a huge impact on human development outcomes for girls and women. In Pakistan, DFID is contributing up to £90 million for a new National Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Programme. In India, DFID is providing £220 million to the National 'Education For All' programme which sets measurable disaggregated targets to reduce the gender gap in school enrolment.

Secondly, DFID also supports numerous programmes that increase women's access to financial services, economic opportunities and political space. In Bangladesh, DFID is providing £75 million over seven years to the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) (a large NGO), for the second phase of a programme that aims to help 800,000 extremely poor women and their households achieve sustainable livelihoods. In Nepal, DFID's Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund (RDIF) supports a three year project focused on strengthening the capacity of women political leaders and cadres to implement democratic and inclusive governance. In Afghanistan, DFID has provided £20 million to the Micro-Finance and Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan which aims to improve women's access to micro credit loans.

South Asia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to increase the security of aid for South Asia. [211742]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has in place robust financial procedures for all programmes. DFID completes a rigorous Fiduciary Risk Assessment (FRA) before all general and sector budget support is agreed. These examine the Government systems through which our money will be spent, identifies weaknesses and sets up monitoring mechanisms for improvement over a period of time.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what personnel have been deployed to work for the Global Conflict Prevention Pool for Sri Lanka; and in what roles. [211725]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This fiscal year, the British high commission in Sri Lanka deploys eight staff members, a significant percentage of whose time is spent working on Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) issues. In total this adds up to almost three full-time staff members. Their roles are deputy head of mission; defence attaché; second secretary; head of section; senior programme manager; and three locally employed administrative staff.

In addition to this, there are four advisory staff based in London, working for DFID and the cross-Whitehall Security Sector Development Advisory Team (SSDAT), who are deployed to Sri Lanka to work on CPP issues in Sri Lanka for short periods of time, as and when required.

Zambia: Education

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to improve the provision of free primary education in Zambia since 2000. [211819]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID has supported the provision of free primary education in Zambia since 2000 through two reform programmes; The Basic Education Sub-Sector Investment Programme (1999-2002) and the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2003-07). The Basic Education Sub Sector Investment Programme together with Zambia's Free Primary Education policy increased enrolment by 10 per cent. and halved the number of children out of school. These programmes were financed by a multi-donor education fund to which DFID contributed £22.1 million.

Between 2000 and 2006 net enrolment rates in primary grades increased from 71 to 97 per cent. while primary school completion rates improved from 63 to 85 per cent. The number of children out of school in Zambia fell from around 600,000 in 1998 to 67,000 in 2005.

From 1998-2005, DFID also funded a £10 million Primary Reading Programme which resulted in improvements of up to 500 per cent. in literacy performance in grades 1-3 in 2005 and overall improvements in the primary school completion exams at grade 7.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Extradition

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the UK is discussing extradition arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [209850]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

The Government continue to keep their extradition relations with other states under review. Communications with foreign governments are confidential in order to preserve the confidence of the other state. This includes negotiations on potential extradition treaties.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 10 June 2008

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cancer: Death

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the death rates from cancer in under 75-year-olds were in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each year since 2000. [172582]

[Official Report, 10 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 277-81W.]

Letter from Tom Watson:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 10 December 2007. The errors made in the answer were as follows:

> The North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust figures appeared twice in the Table i.e. under the Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) of West Midlands and (erroneously) South West.
>
> Kirklees Primary Care Trust figures were omitted from the Yorkshire and The Humber SHA.
>
> The results for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trusts were transposed i.e. the results that were reported for Buckinghamshire were actually for Oxfordshire, and vice versa.

However, the overall annual figures for England remain correct.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Lottery: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each national lottery and Olympic lottery distributor received from the National Lottery Distribution Fund and the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 1997-98. [208266]

[Official Report, 4 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 1015-16W.]

Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 4 June 2008. The error occurred in the column of figures for the New Opportunities Fund. The table should have read as follows:

£000

Financial year	*New Opportunities Fund*	*Sport England*	*Sports Northern Ireland*	*Sport Scotland*	*UK Sport*	*Sports Council for Wales*	*Scottish Screen*	*Big Lottery Fund*	*Olympic Lottery Distributor*
1997-98	0	152,846	7,987	16,221	—	11,238	—	—	—
1998-99	2,408	357,162	6,323	19,273	—	14,622	—	—	—
1999-2000	59,483	250,686	10,323	25,645	—	14,677	—	—	—
2000-01	150,200	231,558	5,107	25,894	22,152	7,829	—	—	—
2001-02	225,250	297,500	5,213	23,166	23,036	10,318	4,021	—	—
2002-03	462,000	307,958	5,666	17,396	25,842	20,632	4,211	—	—
2003-04	598,000	237,400	3,904	33,566	19,830	20,770	2,642	—	—
2004-05	530,000	170,700	5,939	28,977	17,075	18,888	226	—	—
2005-06	637,200	202,100	6,651	23,524	19,147	12,662	2,901	—	33
2006-07	344,000	121,400	7,976	21,898	46,852	10,649	1,773	264,142	55,713

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 12 June 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often she receives reports from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) in relation to its *(a)* activity and *(b)* performance; how many individuals and companies were licensed by the SIA for the immobilisation, restriction and removal of vehicles in (i) Wansbeck constituency, (ii) Northumberland and (iii) the UK in each year since 2003; how many complaints were received about such individuals and companies; and how many of these were upheld and resulted in licences being suspended or withdrawn. [203638]

[Official Report, 3 June 2008, Vol. 476, c. 889-90W.]

Letter from Vernon Coaker:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Wansbeck (Mr. Murphy) on 3 June 2008. The table should have read as follows:

	Number
2003-04	0
2004-05	36
2005-06	1,298
2006-07	1,387
2007-08	1,013

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 13 June 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the reply of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on asylum, which countries are included in the category Europe other in the breakdown by nationality of the grant of indefinite leave to remain under the 2003 family ILR exercise; and if she will break down by nationality the number in the *(a)* Europe other and *(b)* EU accession states categories. [181904]

[Official Report, 6 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1208-09W.]

Letter from Liam Byrne:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 6 February 2008. The table should have read as follows:

Grants of ILR issued under the family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007[1, 2, 3, 4] excluding dependants, for specified nationalities

Country of nationality	*Total*
EU Accession States	
Czech Republic	255
Cyprus	35
Estonia	90
Hungary	*
Latvia	115
Lithuania	380
Poland	580
Slovakia	80
Slovenia	*
Total EU Accession States	1,545
Europe Other	
Bulgaria	65
Croatia	360
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	2,460
Ireland	*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	35
Republic of Montenegro	15
Northern part of Cyprus	155
Total Europe Other	3,090

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 (* = 1 or 2).
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information.
[4] Nationality recorded as at 7 December 2007 is not necessarily the applicant's nationality at the time of grant of ILR.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum claimants and *(b)* dependants of asylum claimants were granted leave to remain in the October 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise; which 40 nationalities received the most grants of indefinite leave to remain; and when the final grants were made to conclude the exercise. [177410]

[Official Report, 11 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 336-37W.]

Letter from Liam Byrne:

An error has been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 11 March 2008. The table should have read as follows:

Grants of ILR issued under the Family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007[1,2,3], excluding dependants

Country of nationality	*Total*
Serbia and Montenegro	3,960
Sri Lanka	1,965
Turkey	1,775
Pakistan	1,245
Nigeria	1,175
Dem. Rep. Congo	955
Colombia	720
Afghanistan	710
Kenya	700
Ecuador	685
Ghana	620
Somalia	600
Poland	580
China	570
Iran	470
Sierra Leone	415
India	395
Lithuania	380
Uganda	375
Croatia	360
Angola	345
Albania	345
Iraq	295
Algeria	270
Czech Republic	255
Ukraine	250
Bangladesh	235
Rwanda	230
Ivory Coast	220
Tanzania	210
Romania	190
Congo	170
Eritrea	165
Burundi	160
Russia	155
Zimbabwe	155
Palestinian Authority	155
Northern part of Cyprus	155
Jamaica	140
Cameroon	135
Other nationalities	1,975
Grand total	24,875

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest five, and may not sum to the total shown due to rounding.
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information and therefore provisional.

Offences Against the Person Act 1861

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196023]

[Official Report, 21 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1494-98W.]

Letter from Vernon Coaker:

An error has been identified in the first table that appeared in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 21 April 2008. The correct table should have been:

Table 1: Offences recorded under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and detected by means of a sanction detection[1]

		2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
	Offence	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*
12	Abandoning a child under the age of two years	59	21	49	21	49	19	49	33	23	15
15	Concealing an infant death close to birth	7	2	6	3	6	1	8	6	4	4

[1] Other offences under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 are not separately identifiable within the police recorded crime statistics.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma (UK Aid)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The agent the SCF used to clear their goods is a Government business consortium under the name of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee (Ngapudaw-Haing Gyi) which includes a company called Shwe Thanlwin Limited. This company and its chairman, U Kyaw Win, are listed in the Annex to the EU common position as "persons who benefit from government economic policies" and are subject to sanctions.

[Official Report, 11 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 18WS.]

Letter from Douglas Alexander:

An error has been identified in my written statement of 11 June 2008 titled "Burma Cyclone Nargis - UK Relief Items". The second sentence of paragraph three of the statement should have been:

"The chairman of this company, Kyaw Win is listed in Annex II to the EU Common Position in the category of "Persons who benefit from government economic policies' and is subject to sanctions. The company with which he is associated, Shwe ThanlwinTrading Co, is named under 'identifying information' in Annex II to the EU Common Position."

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 17 June 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety Executive: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pension of the Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Executive. [198499]

[Official Report, 23 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 2087W.]

Letter from Anne McGuire:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 23 April 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mrs. McGuire: The total value of the remuneration package, including the value of the public sector pension, for the chief executive of the Health and Safety Executive is published each year, in June, in the annual accounts. In the latest published information available for 2006-07 accounting year the cash equivalent transfer value is £1,086,000.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a mesothelioma compensation claim made under the provisions of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill will be required to be submitted within 12 months of the diagnosis of the disease being made; what exceptions to a time limit for submission of claims will apply; and whether an award of compensation for mesothelioma will be required to be paid within six weeks of a claim being lodged. [198747]

[Official Report, 23 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 2089-90W.]

Letter from Anne McGuire:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Barnsley, West and Penistone (Mr. Clapham) on 23 April 2008. The third paragraph should have read as follows:

"For this reason, we intend that we will not apply the 12 month time limit to claims to the new mesothelioma scheme from sufferers during the scheme's first year of operation".

Ministerial Correction

Friday 20 June 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Senior Salaries Review Body (Report on Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances 2007)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The SSRB proposes that increases in pay for Lords Ministers are aligned with that of increases in Commons Ministers' pay in accordance with current practice. The Government accept this recommendation. It is proposed that Lords Ministers' pay will be increased by 1.95 per cent. for 2007-08 in line with the proposed increase in MPs' pay, and that from 1 April 2008, increases in Lords Ministers' pay will be made via the same mechanism as for MPs and other Ministers.

[Official Report, 16 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 32WS.]

Letter from Ms Harriet Harman:

An error has been identified in the written ministerial statement tabled on the 16 January 2008. The written ministerial statement paragraph 19 should have read:

"The SSRB proposes that increases in pay for Lords Ministers are aligned with that of increases in Commons Ministers' pay in accordance with current practice. The Government accepts this recommendation. It is proposed that Lords Ministers' pay will be increased by 1.9 per cent. for 2007-08 in line with the proposed increase in MPs pay, and that from 1 April 2008, increases in Lords Ministers' pay will be made via the same mechanism as for MPs and other Ministers."